

## Gorbachov warning

## Latvians to defy Kremlin threats

From Anatol Lieven, Riga  
and Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

LATVIA last night appeared on a collision course with Moscow after President Gorbachov reportedly rejected the republic's call for talks and threatened economic sanctions.

Latvian deputies voted for independence on Friday. More than 50 deputies, most of them ethnic Russians, did not take part in the vote.

Yesterday Mr Alfred Rubiks, the republic's pro-Moscow Communist Party leader, in a statement that has been reported by Tass, said that Mr Gorbachov had told him over the telephone that he saw no difference between the Latvian and Lithuanian declarations of independence.

Mr Gorbachov is reported to have said that there will be no discussion of Latvian independence unless the republic's parliament returns to the constitutional position before its declaration on May 4. Mr Gorbachov also apparently said that economic sanctions against Latvia were possible.

Opponents of independence appear to be preparing for a campaign of resistance to the new leadership in Riga. At the same time, the advocates of independence indicated that they would not be deflected.

The League of Work Collectives, linking managers and workers in Russian-dominated All Union factories, has announced that it will hold a strike on May 15, to protest against the independence moves. Around two-thirds of the republic's industrial workforce is estimated to be non-Russian.

On Wednesday the anniversary of the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany is to be celebrated in Riga with a military parade. Soviet loyalist groups have announced that they will hold rallies to mark the day.

Mr Gorbachov's message

## INSIDE

## Luce seeks heritage cash

Mr Richard Luce, the Arts Minister, is seeking a big increase in funds for the National Heritage Memorial Fund in an attempt to preserve more art works and national treasures for British art lovers.

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## Ulster talks

The prospect of inter-party talks on the government of Ulster improved when Unionist leaders responded warmly to a Government statement that it would be prepared to consider replacing the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

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## Computer crime

The computer crime division of the fraud squad is planning a nationwide study into computer misuse in an attempt to secure more powers for the police.

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## Train blast

A suspected bomb exploded in the first-class car of a Pakistani express passenger train outside Lahore yesterday, killing at least 12 people and injuring 41.

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## Interest rates

Finance ministers from the leading industrial nations agreed in Washington that interest rates should remain high to combat strong inflationary pressures around the world.

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Pounding the beat: Police joined 3,400 people in a mass tap dance for charity in Croydon, south London, one of many Telethon holiday events

## Holiday grinds to a halt

By David Sapsted

CLOGGED roads, a rash of burglaries and the unofficial start of the acid house party season marked a typical Bank holiday weekend yesterday. Forecasters said last night, however, that the Mediterranean-style weather has temporarily had its day.

It was still not clear whether the harsh words reported by Mr Rubiks were a last-minute attempt either by the Kremlin or the Latvian Communist Party to slow progress towards independence, or whether they were the Kremlin's considered - and remarkably swift - response.

Assuming the latter, it appears either that the Latvian declaration has been misinterpreted or, more likely, that Moscow will recognize no course towards secession from the Soviet Union that does not begin with a formal statement of intention that the republic intends to invoke the new Soviet law on secession.

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Mr Gorbachov's message

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## MPs dampen Baker's optimism over poll tax

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

AS MR Kenneth Baker yesterday insisted that the local government election results showed that the Conservative Party was recovering support, backbench MPs sought to dampen his optimism and warned of the political damage caused by the poll tax.

With Mr Michael Heseltine due to outline later this week his ideas on how the tax can be changed, several Conservative MPs cautioned against the belief that the results had vindicated the poll tax.

MPs with seats in the provinces where Labour did well advised the Government against believing that its victories in the London boroughs of Wandsworth and Westminster had eased electoral problems caused by the tax.

Although the Conservative hierarchy believes the election results have strengthened Mrs

man, said the elections showed that the Conservatives had stopped the ebbing tide and were on the road back, although he admitted that the results had been patchy. "There is a heck of a lot to do. I can assure you there will be no complacency. I recognize the task ahead."

He said that since Christmas there had been a period of "extraordinary hysteria" which had developed on the basis that the party and Mrs Thatcher were finished.

Speaking on the BBC 1 *On the Record* programme, he said he hoped the leadership issue was now resolved, adding that a change was neither necessary nor appropriate.

Although the Conservative hierarchy believes the election results have strengthened Mrs

Thatcher's position, several MPs urged her to listen to the provincial voters.

Mr Gary Waller, MP for Keighley, told Mrs Thatcher to listen to the people if Conservatives were to stand a chance of winning an election in either 1991 or 1992.

The controversy over the poll tax will revive later this week when Mr Heseltine gives his views on how it should be changed. "What I will be looking at is to form a constructive way forward," he said yesterday.

Mr Peter Walker, the former Secretary of State for Wales, predicted that the review of the tax would not produce major changes.

Another term, page 10

Ingham letter, page 2  
Latest polls, page 2

## Joseph chides Thatcher

By Richard Ford  
Political Correspondent

LORD Joseph, one of the Prime Minister's most loyal former colleagues, today criticizes her over the speedy introduction of the poll tax and for allowing inflation to revive. He says that, with hindsight, she should have replaced Mr Nigel Lawson before the Chancellor resigned last year.

Lord Joseph, who, as Sir Keith Joseph, co-founded the right-wing Centre for Policy Studies with Mrs Thatcher, says the Government introduced the poll tax without identifying and eliminating its snags, and now faces a dilemma in resolving its difficulties.

Another term, page 10

cost an estimated £30 million with at least £5 million in advertising alone.

Some would question whether it has been money well spent, judging by the bewildered look in many offices. Even the Princess of Wales has expressed total ignorance of the new number for Kensington Palace.

British Telecom admits the big test

will come tomorrow morning when London grows back to life. The scope for chaos is immense, with an average 20 million calls in any working day. BT can handle 50,000 recorded announcements a minute to tell people they have dialled, but the organization hopes that will not be necessary. "We do not subscribe to the talk of gloom and doom," it said optimistically.

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## FEATURES

## Hallmarks of a lady

A charity set up to help Ladies in Reduced Circumstances is short of candidates in need. But what is meant by the term "lady" in Britain today? Alexandra King investigates. Page 15

## More than an animal show



If you go down to the zoo today... you will discover that the work may be as much about conserving endangered species, such as the giant panda, as giving visitors access to creatures from around the world. London Zoo, a Special Report: Pages 17-19

## The age of the bad loser

Some losers in last week's council elections reacted in defeat with something less than traditional good will. Libby Purves wonders whether this is evidence of a new social trend. Page 15

## Open door for older students

Oxford University has decided to increase student numbers over the next 10 years. But almost all the new places will go to mature students. Page 21

## SPORT



## Anyone for Badminton?

Nicola McIrvine won the Badminton Horse Trials yesterday on Middle Road. A full report appears on Page 23, the first of nine pages covering the sports events of the Bank holiday weekend. These include the Benson & Hedges international golf at St Mellion, the Pilkington Cup rugby final at Twickenham and the New Zealand cricket team's first match of their summer tour at Arundel.

## Phone changes put social cachet on the line

By Della Matthews

were "shattered" by the changeover. "The new rich do care a lot about this sort of thing," he said.

All is not lost, however, for those who have been consigned to the sidelines of London life. They can escape social suicide by paying £1,915 plus VAT to have their code changed.

Mr Brooks Baker said several of his clients planned to do so. Estate agents have claimed that having the right code could add several thousand pounds to the value of property.

Nowhere is the situation more polarized than along Swains Lane, a leafy, winding street in Highgate, north London, where on one side of the road residents fall within inner London's 071 area, while neighbours opposite them are 081 code.

Mrs Janet Wagner, an 071 journalist, said: "I haven't met anyone who hasn't laughed about it. It's a funny

switch. By having an 071 number we're going up the snobbery scale."

Across the road, Mr Anthony Gibson, aged 33, who works in advertising, said the alleged effect on property prices was an estate agents' gimmick. He would not pay good money for an 071 code. "I'm very happy being an 081'er."

Mr Bob Bell, who is retired, has a trendy 071 code. "What difference does a telephone number make? I'm too old to be trendy."

The changeover went smoothly when from midnight a team of 800 engineers started the big switch-off, converting 750 exchanges in London and 50 trunk exchanges. Because of the low volume of calls, the Bank holiday weekend was deliberately chosen to usher in the greatest change in codes since WHI for Whitehall was abolished. The two-year operation has

cost an estimated £30 million with at least £5 million in advertising alone.

Some would question whether it has been money well spent, judging by the bewildered look in many offices. Even the Princess of Wales has expressed total ignorance of the new number for Kensington Palace.

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Leading article, page 11  
Letters, page 11

## why is it called a bank holiday?

why not a supermarket holiday, or a chipshop holiday, or a post office holiday?

we're not on holiday.

first direct  
0800 22 2000

first direct is a division of midland bank plc.

# PR 'minders' vetoed after Ingham intervenes

By Richard Ford  
Political Correspondent

A PROPOSAL to improve the image of three Cabinet ministers by providing them with personal public relations advisers was abandoned after complaints from information officers in Whitehall led to the intervention of the Prime Minister's press secretary.

Mr Bernard Ingham moved swiftly on learning from a newspaper report of the proposal. In a telephone call to Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, Mr Ingham said the idea was seen as an "insult" to the Government Information Service.

Mr Ingham, as head of the service, acted after calls from a

number of heads of information in government departments last Monday expressing concern at the idea to provide advisers for Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, and Mr John MacGregor, the Secretary of State for Education.

Mr Ingham said yesterday he had no idea how a letter he sent to senior civil servants in the service which gave details of his conversation with Mr Baker had been leaked. He added that he had nothing to do with the idea being abandoned and that ministers were free to appoint special advisers if they wished. The letter, however, reveals the power that Mr Ingham wields in this area. The plan

emerged after a dinner hosted by Mr Baker, attended by public relations and advertising executives. Mr Waddington was to receive advice from Mr Tim Bell, a former director of Saatchi and Saatchi; Mr MacGregor was to have the services of Mr Robin Wight, the chairman of Wight Collins Rutherford and Scott; and Mr Clarke's "minder" was to be Mr John Banks, chairman of Young and Rubicam.

Mr Ingham's letter said: "As head of the Government Information Service I telephoned Mr Kenneth Baker, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, this morning about the reported appointment of public relations minders to three Cabinet ministers: Home Secretary

— Tim Bell; Kenneth Clarke — John Banks; John MacGregor — Robin Wight.

"I said I was doing so in response to serious concern which had been expressed to me by heads of information, especially as there seemed to be the possibility of further appointments.

"I said we needed to deal with this issue immediately in order to prevent damage to the GIS. The announcement of the appointments, made without any consultation with the heads of information concerned, was seen as a grave reflection on the competence of the GIS — indeed as an insult to it."

"The GIS had and, I was sure, would continue to do its level best

for the government of the day. But it was inevitable getting a lot of flak these days and this kind of episode would be damaging of its morale unless there was proper consultation and explanation. It was absolutely essential that ministers and Messrs Bell, Banks and Wight handled the GIS with kid gloves, given the circumstances of their appointment.

"Mr Baker regretted the publicity and said no announcement had been made. It had leaked out ..."

"He was sorry if it was felt the appointments, and the manner in which the appointments had become public, reflected on the competence of the GIS. That had not been the intention and it did not reflect the view in which the GIS was held."

"I said that we need to dispel that impression immediately. I asked him to make it clear to all inquirers — and to the GIS — that these were party appointments and did not and were not intended to reflect upon the competence and abilities of the GIS. Mr Baker agreed to do this."

"I strongly urge you to communicate these sentiments to your Permanent Secretaries and to deploy them as necessary with your ministers."

Within days of Mr Ingham's conversation and letter, the scheme was abandoned and it emerged that both ministers and Downing Street were unhappy with it.

JULIAN HERBERT

## Labour lead cut by 7% in week

By Richard Ford  
Political Correspondent

LABOUR'S lead over the Conservatives has dropped by 7 per cent in a week, according to an opinion poll taken after the local government elections, in which Labour won 303 seats.

However the poll highlights Mrs Thatcher's unpopularity, with 64 per cent of those questioned wanting her to step down as Conservative party leader before the next General Election.

On the other hand a survey by *The Independent* on Sunday of 100 Tory MPs shows that her authority within the party has been strengthened by the Conservatives' showing in the local elections. Only 15 per cent of Conservative backbench MPs questioned wanted her to retire before the General Election, compared with 24 per cent in March; 70 said they wanted her to stay on and 72 said the election results had strengthened her hand.

The NOP poll, published in yesterday's *The Mail on Sunday*, shows Labour's lead cut from 20 per cent to 13 per cent in a week. Labour has 47 per cent, the Conservatives 34 per cent, the Liberal Democrats 8 per cent, the Greens 4 per cent, the Social Democrats 3 per cent, the Nationalists 3 per cent and Others 1 per cent.

Sixty-four per cent believe Mrs Thatcher should stand down as Conservative party leader before the next General Election, with only 30 per cent thinking she should stay on. Almost half, 48 per cent, believe the Conservatives would have done better in the local government elections if Mrs Thatcher had not been leading the party.

However the poll, conducted among 1,082 voters in 54 constituencies last Friday, shows that the prospect of Mr Michael Heseltine, the former Secretary of State for Defence, replacing Mrs Thatcher makes little difference to voters: 66 per cent said Mr Heseltine's leadership would have no effect on their voting intention, 18 per cent said they would be more likely to vote Conservative, and 11 per cent less likely.

As for the poll tax, 33 per cent would be more likely to vote Conservative if the tax was scrapped, and 27 per cent if the bills were reduced. But 61 per cent said scrapping it would make no difference.

• The Labour leadership is being urged to put additional resources into the party in London after its patchy showing in the local elections. Mrs Glenna Thornton, chairman of the London Labour party, yesterday reiterated her support for the appointment of a campaign manager: "My strategy paper said there should be a campaign manager. But it really was saying that more resources were needed for London. We will be looking at what needs to be done as we analyse the results from the local elections."

Mr Peter Mandelson, the director of communications, said no decisions would be taken until after the analysis.

A paper recommending changes was sent to the Labour leadership before the local elections as part of attempts to improve the party's image and position in London and ensure that the capital does not damage its overall performance. The party leadership is contrasting the success in boroughs like Islington and Haringey with its failure in west London which it blames on demographic changes, poor organisation and bad political decision-making.

But Mr Tony Banks, chairman of the London Labour group of MPs, said a difficulty facing the party was there was nothing consistent in the results in London. He said that sometimes the party in the capital was not aware enough of the fact that it operated in a "political goldfish" and needed to be careful to avoid political minefields.

LIBERALISM in education was condemned by the Bishop of Carlisle, Right Rev Michael Caine, in his farewell address as president of the Anglican Evangelical Association yesterday.

He said: "We are told the more liberal education which can disperse the accounts of the person or of the Virgin Birth, and later inventions to expand our knowledge of God, has enabled us to come to God. Yet I say to you, reply, what God?"

Was he the God who revealed himself in the flesh and in scripture, or was he God we created from our experience, forming our image of God in our way that has comforted us as humans?"

From this it was but a philosophical, to denigrate the uniqueness of Christianity, Baughen urged evangelicals to "abandon" fundamentalism in the authority of scripture.

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### FOOTBALL VIOLENCE

## Season ends on a tide of uproar and arrests

By Stewart Teadler, Crime Correspondent

THE first of more than 70 football supporters arrested by police during violence at Bournemouth appeared before the town's magistrates yesterday as the last full weekend of the football league season ended with trouble at 18 matches leading to more than 320 arrests.

Police were faced with problems as far apart as Bognor Regis, Aldershot, Birmingham, Cambridge, Shrewsbury, Sheffield, Halifax and Leicester. At Chesterfield, Derbyshire, where 30 arrests were made as 1,000 Grimsby Town supporters invaded the pitch, police afterwards talked of the possible need to put up fencing again. The thought was echoed by a senior local politician in Birmingham where there were two pitch invasions and 15 arrests during the match between Birmingham City and Reading.

But Bournemouth, Dorset, was the scene of the worst trouble, surrounding a crucial Division Two match between Bournemouth and Leeds United. At the end of a violent two days, the county may face £100,000 in extra policing bills.

### Prisoners protest on roof

Eight prisoners from an isolation unit at Mountjoy Prison, Dublin, staged a protest on the roof last night. The men, who are all believed to be HIV positive, were protesting at lack of medical facilities in the unit.

Negotiators from the Department of Justice were called in. A police spokesman said last night: "We believe the incident will end during the night without any problems."

### On the mend

Stephen Hollis, aged three, Britain's youngest heart and lung transplant patient, is out of intensive care. Stephen, of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, has been moved to the main children's ward at Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds, after making good progress following surgery on April 29.

### Gas link agreed

A 140-mile natural gas pipeline from Morecambe Bay to Dublin, expected to cost at least £225 million, has been approved by the EC, which has pledged grant aid of £100 million towards the project. Ireland's natural gas supplies are expected to be exhausted by 2002.

### Trust attacked

The National Trust was yesterday accused of creating an eyesore after it painted the house in Cockermouth, Cumbria, where the poet William Wordsworth was born, the colour of soil to make it look more authentic. The trust said: "Wordsworth did not like houses painted white."

### Haringey result

The result of Thursday's local election in the London borough of Haringey, declared on Saturday, was:

Labour change Lab gained 3 from C, 1 from LDem, C gain 1 from Lab. New council: Lab 42, C 17.

supporters. Police estimate that up to 4,000 supporters travelled without tickets.

More than 1,000 Leeds supporters, who stayed in the town after the game, staged a beach party using hundreds of deck chairs as fuel for their fires. Yesterday, Chief Supt Richard Daubeny, commander of the division covering Bournemouth, said offences included looting, an arson attack on the town's pier and criminal damage.

Violence also flared on Saturday in Bognor Regis, West Sussex, when 100 football supporters besieged the pier after the Portsmouth-Barnsley match. In Halifax, police arrested 22 people during disturbances at the West Yorkshire side's game against Stockport County. There were 36 arrests during Sheffield United's Second Division promotion game at Leicester.

In Sheffield one police officer was slightly injured and at least 24 fans were arrested during troubles which flared at Sheffield Wednesday's 3-0 home defeat against Nottingham Forest. 20 were arrested at Hillsborough.

Thirty-four Burnley fans were arrested after trouble erupted in Cambridge when a stone was thrown at their coach on the journey back from their team's away win at Colchester.

In London there were arrests at four first division games, although supporters were, on the whole, "incredibly well behaved", Scotland Yard said. The worst trouble was at Millwall's match against Chelsea where 19 arrests were made. There were four arrests in Tottenham and 16 at Upton Park where West Ham beat Wolves.

In Hampshire fans staged two pitch invasions at Aldershot where the home team was beaten by Cambridge. A total of 23 fans were either arrested or ejected from the ground.

Leading article, page 11

## Whitehall union fears left control

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

EXTREME left-wing union activists are launching a determined attempt to take control of three of Britain's largest civil service unions in a move which could cause confrontation in Whitehall and disrupt community charge legislation.

The extremists, who have grouped under a broad-left banner to fight for control of the executive of the Civil and Public Services Union, have said they would instruct members to refuse to carry out statutory duties.

Moderate leaders of that union fear that a low turnout in a postal ballot to elect a new executive could favour extreme left-wing candidates, who regard the union as the "jewel in the crown". Indications so far are that no more than 24 per cent of the union's 145,000 members have filled in their voting forms.

Although the moderate leadership has made substantial headway in improving pay rates since it took control 14 months ago, thousands of union members still earn between £6,000-£7,000 a year, providing the left with a fertile source of discontent. Mr John Ellis, the union's general secretary, believes union elections could be made more representative if the Government allowed people to register their workplace as their "home address".

The union knows the home addresses of about only 85,000 members which effectively leaves thousands disenfranchised. Mr Ellis said that if Militant gained control, it could attempt to take over the Council of Civil Service Unions and gain a foothold in the heart of the Government's administrative machinery.

The National Union of Civil and Public Servants, which has 120,000 members, could also lurch to the left with its candidates, including six communists, predicting that their year-long campaign will give them control of the union's 40-strong executive.

The results of the two elections, which will be known later this month, could have an important bearing on a proposed merger of the unions.

Naiglo, the town hall workers' union, is also facing a hard-left challenge with Mr Roger Bannister, a Militant supporter, running for the post of general secretary.

• Mr John Smith, the Shadow Chancellor, in an interview with *The Independent* on Sunday, appears to have abandoned the Labour Party's past commitments to full employment, saying employers and workers had to realize that once Britain was in the European Monetary System, devaluation of the pound to pay for wage increases was no longer an option. He ruled out an incomes policy and said unions could destroy jobs if they pushed wage claims too hard.

DISPOSAL FOR IMMEDIATE CASH TODAY MONDAY at 5.00 PM VIEWING FROM 4.00 PM AT THE SALEROOM: A. WELLESLEY BRISCOE & PTNES. LTD. SPECIALIST STOCK LIQUIDATORS VALUERS AND ARBITRATORS BOBBY PLACE, FULHAM, LONDON SW6 Tel: 071-381 4558 Fax 071-381 4262 Distr. 1:10 am - 1pm Sat. 10 am - 4pm Sun. Tel: 071-381 4558 Fax 071-381 4262 TELEX: 7394 E. TASH AND ALL BANKS/CREDIT CARDS SHIPPING FACILITIES AVAILABLE



A 7lb salmon caught in a fishery trap at Molesey Weir on the Thames at Hampton Court yesterday being examined by Mr Peter Gough, a scientist for the National Rivers Authority, before being released to spawn. The 27-inch salmon is the second to be caught in a trap this year. Normally salmon do not return from the Atlantic to spawn until June. The catches are a sign of the success of a programme to clean and restock the Thames. In 1988 some 320 salmon returned to spawn. Last year, however, high water temperatures caused the number to drop to 120. As many as 600 salmon are expected to return to spawn this year if temperatures do not rise.

### Inquiry on explosives 'catches'

CLAIMS that explosives and detonators have been hauled up by Scottish fishermen in the Clyde estuary are to be investigated this weekend with a warn response from Unionist leaders to a statement by the Government said yesterday.

A report in *The Mail on Sunday* said the material was brought up in busy fishing grounds by prawn fishermen 10 miles from where it had been legally dumped in the estuary. The report said a knock could trigger a blast.

The newspaper said the material was tipped by ICI, the chemical company, inessian sacks which quickly disintegrated. The Scottish Office said it would be investigating the claims.

It had no knowledge of explosives being picked up but would welcome information from fishermen. "Meanwhile, we advise fishermen not to fish over the dumping ground or pick up suspect material."

ICL confirmed that its Bel Explosives Company had legally disposed of explosives and detonators in a designated zone in the estuary.

That disposal method had ceased last year and the company now burns the waste, a spokesman added. He emphasized there was no immediate danger to people walking or swimming in the area as the materials had been trawled up from the seabed.

"We are extremely concerned that material has been found by fishermen and an immediate investigation is under way. This is the first report we have had of material being found, especially outside the designated area, which is known to mariners and all the relevant authorities," the spokesman said.

Mr Molyneux's response makes it certain that he and Mr Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, will now go back — possibly before the end of this week — for a further round of exploratory talks with Mr Brooke.

Mr Molyneux said, however, that the concession was only the first of three big hurdles to be overcome on the way to talks. Debate would now focus, he said, on the

particulars of the agreement that he and Mr Brooke had reached.

Mr Molyneux said: "We must resolutely reject inducements to avail ourselves of longer-than-usual gaps between meetings of the parties."

He is unlikely to accept less than the scrapping of the agreement. He said last week: "We must resolutely reject inducements to avail ourselves of longer-than-usual gaps between meetings of the parties."

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THE TIMES MONDAY MAY 7 1990

HOME NEWS 3

# Ministers to step up protection of heritage

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

**MINISTERS** are to step up efforts to retain works of heritage importance in Britain in the face of rocketing prices on the international art market.

The introduction of a new policy on works of art over Canada's "The Three Graces", allowing export licences to be refused in the case of matching owners from private buyers in Britain as well as from public collections, is to be followed by a determined effort to increase the funds available to preserve the heritage.

Mr Richard Luce, the Arts Minister, and Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, are pressing Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for a significant boost in funding for the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Mr Luce is also seeking tax changes on the Australian and Canadian model to allow individuals to present works of art to national collections and, following independent valuation, to be able to offset the sums involved against their tax bills over a period of years.

Mr Luce said yesterday: "The scale of change everyone needs to face up to is that over the last five years the Sotheby's Index has shown art prices rising by 150 per cent. Over the decade to 1990 they are up 375 per cent. No one has indicated to me that that rate of increase won't continue and there is a limit to the amount of public sector funds which can be made available to secure works of art for the nation. We have got to open up other avenues and take account of the private sector."

He said the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, the body which recommends delays in the issue of export licences, was concerned that fewer than 50 per cent of the works it sought to preserve for the nation were remaining in Britain.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund has spent £110 million since 1980 in saving for the nation objects ranging from Wellington's despatches to a Thomas Gainsborough self-portrait. Its basic funding, however, is only £3 million a year. Any extra comes from what is left in the Department of the Environment's coffers as a result of underspending and from grants to help with particular items.

Mr Luce and Mr Patten are understood to be seeking extra long-term money for the fund. Mr Luce said yesterday: "They have done a tremendous job. It is vital to give them a good prospect of finance to plan for the longer term." He confirmed that the Government would be exploring

ing other avenues for saving art works, notably in the tax system. The provisions for the acceptance of works of art in lieu of tax on people's estates, introduced in 1985, resulted in items worth £11.5 million passing into public collections last year. Other important art works such as Constable's "Waterloo Bridge" have been gained for the nation by private treaty sales.

Mr Luce was among those lobbying for the "Gift Aid" scheme announced in the budget, offering tax advantages on charitable gifts from £600 to £5 million. He believes that will increase the response to appeals for the preservation of heritage items threatened by export.

Mr Luce will not, however, be increasing the purchase funds for Britain's national museums and galleries. On their budgets, he said: "The first objective is to get the fabric of these institutions into decent shape so as to display more works of art."

He defended the Government's change of policy over "The Three Graces", saying: "We are not seeking to replace the public sector with private sector funding. We are trying to open new avenues."

He admitted that ministers could not impose conditions on sales to the private sector in Britain of works refused an export licence. Mr Luce made clear, however, that he would use his right to advise the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on export licences and that the extent to which the public would be guaranteed access to a work of art by a buyer in Britain would weigh heavily on his advice as to whether or not an export licence should be granted.

"The most important objective is to retain the work in this country. Each case will be reviewed on its merits," he said.

Mr Luce, who on May 18 attends a meeting of European Community arts ministers to discuss the ramifications for the art trade of the post-1992 Single European Market, says Britain seeks a balance between the interests of owners, the art trade and the national heritage. Countering art trade fears, he said: "We have no intention of turning our system upside down."

Only a small proportion of art works was affected by heritage considerations but more avenues for saving important works had to be found. "If we had not done so there would have been pressure for more draconian systems such as the listing of the works of art which could never be exported."

## Liberalism in theology condemned

LIBERALISM in theological education was condemned by the Bishop of Chester, the Right Rev Michael Baughen, in his farewell address as president of the Anglican Evangelical Assembly yesterday.

He said: "We are told that the more liberal approach, which can dispense with the accounts of the Resurrection or of the Virgin Birth as mere later inventions to explain the experiences of early Christians, has enabled many to come to God. Yet I want to reply, what God? What sort of God?"

Was he the God who had revealed himself in history and in scripture, or was he the God we created from our experience, forming and reforming our image of him in a way that was comfortable to us as humans, Bishop Baughen asked.

From this it was but a short jump to the "New Age" philosophy, to denigrating the uniqueness of Christ as a man-invented doctrine. Bishop Baughen urged evangelicals to be "unswerving" in their fundamental conviction of the authority of scripture.

## Strangeways chief finds a spiritual aspect to jail riot

By Peter Davenport

MR BRENDAN O'FRIEL, governor of Strangeways Prison in Manchester, yesterday said there may have been profound spiritual explanations for the riot and 25-day siege that devastated the jail last month.

He also said it was partly due to the power of prayer that the longest siege in British penal history had not ended in greater tragedy. Mr O'Friel said there were "very curious aspects" to the disturbances and it was not just a straightforward riot.

"I think the truth of the matter is that when we come to deal with matters of good and evil, our knowledge, by definition, is limited and imperfect," he said.

"All I know is that there were some very curious aspects to the incident at Strangeways in the way it started in the chapel, the burning of the RC chapel later that day, the desecration of the vestments and the pushing of the cross off the top of F-Wing chapel.

"They leave me puzzled, believing that when we have given all our secular explanations, there may also be other explanations of a more profound and spiritual nature."



Mr O'Friel: "Curious" factors in jail riot

Mr O'Friel was speaking in an interview on the BBC Radio 4 programme Sunday. His comments came as yesterday's newspapers carried reports of a briefing held by the governor, accompanied by his five prison chaplains, last week for religious correspondents and publications with an interest in religious affairs.

Mr O'Friel was reported as saying: "There is something about this that makes me feel that it was in part – and, of course, there are many other explanations for it – something of a battle between good and evil." Yesterday the Rev Rus Peart, the Methodist chaplain at Strangeways, said he and his colleagues shared the governor's view of events surrounding the riot and siege.

The briefing was an amplification of the governor's comments during the siege that the riot was an "explosion of evil". He said it was significant that the riot started in the chapel on Passion Sunday, reached a crisis point on Good Friday and ended on the roof of the chapel, where the last five prisoners surrendered.

Mr O'Friel's testimony will be a key part of evidence to Lord Justice Woolf's inquiry into recent jail disturbances.

Greater Manchester Police has set up a force of 120 detectives to investigate crimes committed during the siege. They are investigating the death of a remand prisoner and crimes including assaults, wounding, attempted murders and criminal damage.

## Rowers fear bridge effect on Cam races

By Arthur Leathley

ROWING enthusiasts and conservationists will team up next week to try to stop plans that they claim will ruin one of Cambridge University's great river racing traditions.

The picturesque setting for the Mays Races, a popular annual rowing event for more than 150 years, will be marred by proposals to build a new road over the Cam, the project's opponents say.

They insist that a new bridge, about a mile from the city centre, will be a blot on what they call a "magical" landscape, and that traffic fumes and noise will affect Ditton Meadows, near by. More than 20 of the university's 30 colleges

have backed the Save Our Commons And Meadows (SOCAM) campaign, which already has a 5,000-name petition and expects to double that total.

The Mays Races is a week-long rowing competition, held each June, which includes the "bumps" contest. Mr Bill Key, president of Cambridgeshire Rowing Association, wrote in a local newspaper: "This wonderful tranquil scene will be completely ruined visually by a large bridge and associated approach roads, and the scent from the meadows will be replaced by the fumes of thousands of motor vehicles and the peace will be completely shattered."

Mrs Thelma Harding, spokesman for SOCAM, said: "This is an area which

means a great deal both to rowers and to the many people who have walked down the river's towpath to Ditton. It should be treated with respect."

Cambridgeshire County Council, which will consider the plans at a meeting on Wednesday, next week, says that it is considering only approval of the scheme in principle.

Mr Tony Williams, the council's deputy transport director, said: "We can understand people making their views known, but this is at a very early planning stage and is only one of many transport schemes being considered to improve traffic congestion in Cambridge. There will be full public consultation before any decision."



The way we were: A 1944 Bedford lorry gets a check over before the 29th London to Brighton historic commercial vehicle run held yesterday

## Schools pressing on with many A-level reforms

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

THE Government's insistence that A levels must remain largely unchanged was further undermined yesterday by the publication of figures showing that schools and colleges favour reformist syllabuses.

Entry figures for this year's A levels, which begin in a few weeks' time, show that schools are implementing many of the A-level reforms opposed by the Government. Since 1988, when they rejected the Higginson report on A levels which called for big changes, ministers have insisted that A levels must remain rigorously academic in character.

In French, new syllabuses which placed the emphasis on communication skills rather than the study of French literature had increased entries by 46 per cent. A similar pattern was repeated in German, up 37 per cent, and Spanish, which had a 39 per cent rise in entries. The figures will increase pressure on Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to rethink the Government's attitude.

Mr Turnbull, the board's industrial liaison director, said the popularity of the English syllabus had been further boosted this year by a decision to increase the coursework element from a third to a half.

In French, new syllabuses which placed the emphasis on communication skills rather than the study of French literature had increased entries by 46 per cent. A similar pattern was repeated in German, up 37 per cent, and Spanish, which had a 39 per cent rise in entries. The figures will increase pressure on Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to rethink the Government's attitude.

Mr Turnbull said: "To have kept entries at the same level as last year would have been quite an achievement, given the demographic situation.

"The idea many people have of A levels is 20 years out of date. They talk about the reform of A levels but they are already reforming themselves."

The trend reflects the considerable problems schools have in helping pupils to make the transition from GCSE, with its emphasis on developing skills rather than acquiring knowledge, to the more academic A level. Many GCSE pupils, who followed courses in which all the marks are awarded for coursework, have found themselves facing

Success story, page 21

## Oxford to break tradition

By Our Education Reporter

OXFORD University is to break with 800 years of tradition by admitting mature and external part-time students on a large scale. The move, which has provoked controversy among dons, will be signalled this week by the elevation of the university's Department of External Studies to the same status as its 41 colleges and private halls.

The university plans to increase undergraduate numbers by 1,500 by the end of the century and most new scholars will be 25. The decision to concentrate on those continuing their education in later life was based partly on fears that standards might slip if teenage undergraduates increased.

The number of Britain's 18-year-olds is due to fall by a

third by the middle of the decade, limiting the university's scope to increase student numbers without reducing admission requirements. The contemplation of part-time courses and mature students, however, has caused a university dispute, with some dons privately saying they will refuse to teach non-traditional students.

The extent to which resistance materializes will depend on the outcome of a consultation exercise launched last week by Congregation.

Wooing the mature, page 20

## Artcards pay £110,000 in first year

By Simon Tait  
Arts Correspondent

THE Artcard, the credit card launched jointly by the Arts Council and the Midland Bank a year ago tomorrow, has resulted in £110,000 being paid to arts groups and the number of organizations involved in the scheme has almost doubled.

The figures are expected to be announced by the Arts Council today. It is also understood that the Artcard is likely to prosper because while ordinary credit cards are increasingly introducing

service charges, "affinity" cards such as the arts card are expected to be exempted.

The Artcard is used like an ordinary credit card except that holders nominate arts charities that they wish to benefit from their transactions. Midland Bank pays £5 to the chosen charity the first time the card is used and 25p for every £100 spent thereafter.

Individual uses for money received by groups include the introduction of disability guides by the South Bank Board, a facsimile machine for the London Mozart Players, building work

at the Snape Maltings for the Aldeburgh Festival, and towards the budget for commissioning new plays for the Royal Court Theatre.

Tomorrow the Arts Council and the Midland Bank are to launch a new publicity drive for the card, which has 87 participating organizations against the 47 with which it began.

The playwright Alan Ayckbourn, whose newly-reborn Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough is now involved, praised the scheme. "For the recipient it is practical and positive, for the donor it is practically painless."

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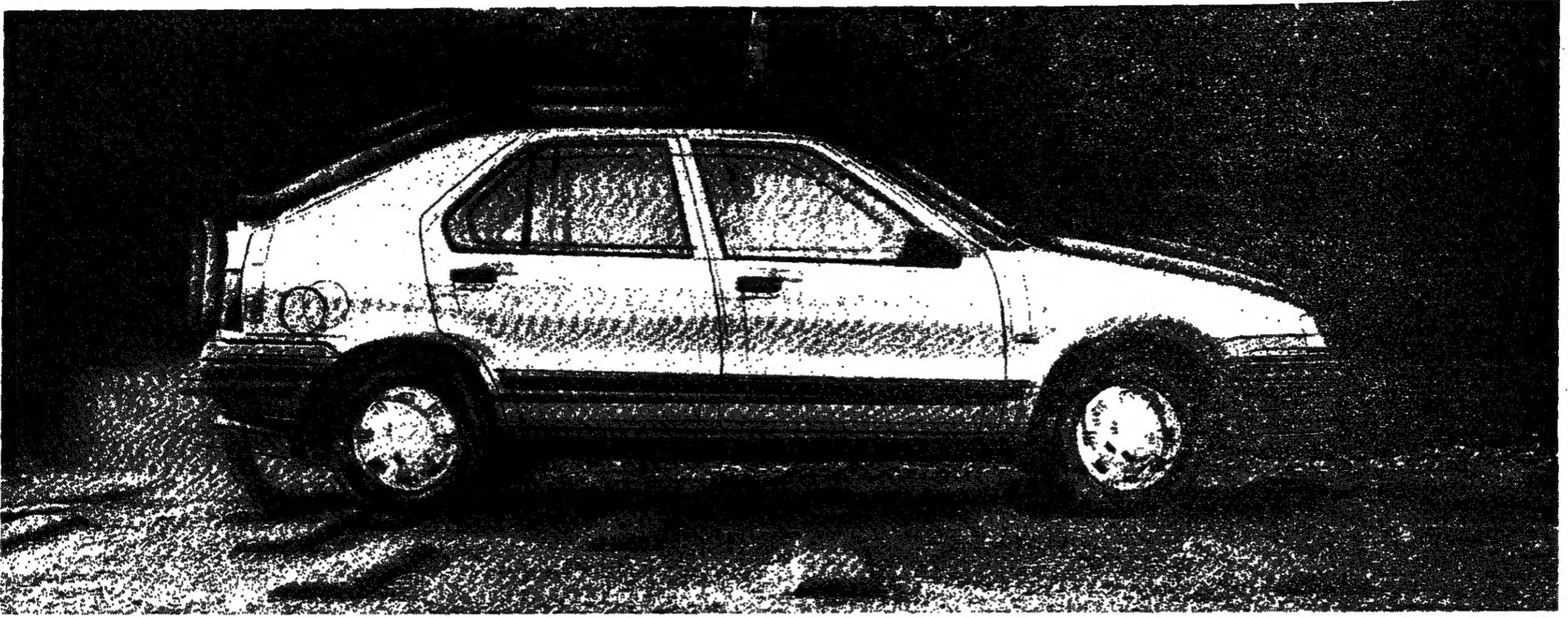
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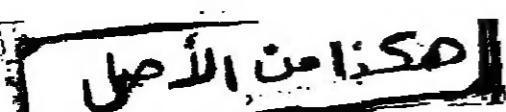


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By Quentin Craig  
Home Affairs  
Correspondent

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# Police claim computer fraud Bill badly flawed

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

THE computer crime division of the fraud squad is planning a nationwide study of computer misuse in an attempt to secure more powers.

New laws covering misuse of computers for fraud or blackmail and by disgruntled former employees, are expected in the summer. They follow the successful third reading in the House of Commons on Friday of the computer misuse Bill which has been introduced by Mr Michael Colvin, Conservative MP for Romsey and Waterside.

Senior police officers claim, however, that the Bill is seriously flawed, depriving the police of fundamental powers needed to catch criminals. MPs have failed to understand the nature of computer crime, they believe.

Det Supt Barry Donovan, of the Computer Crime Unit at Scotland Yard, said the Bill was excellent in creating three new crimes "but is sadly lacking in giving us any chance of enforcing them". One of the several crucial areas in which the Bill fails is in monitoring and surveillance of suspected criminals, he said.

"Hackers" break into data bases down telephone lines rather than by walking into a building. Under the proposed legislation monitoring will require the consent of the victim and the goodwill of British Telecom.

Hackers, however, often rove across the telephone network penetrating a computer and moving on in minutes. Thus, identifying victims may prove impossible without telephone taps, even if police identify a suspect.

Mr Donovan said: "There are people who tell us about hackers in the same way that there are people who will tell us of robbers. In the case of robbers we mount a surveil-

lance of the suspect but the law does not allow us to tap the telephone line."

Ministers have suggested the police can secure warrants from the Home Secretary under the Interception of Telecommunications Act 1985. Mr Donovan, however, said this was not acceptable for computer crime because evidence is gathered in secret and is inadmissible in court.

Mr Donovan's concerns were echoed by Miss Emma Nicholson, Conservative MP for Devon West and Torridge, and one of the Bill's sponsors.

"The 1985 Act has been designed for the security services of MI5 and MI6 and as such covers issues of national security. It is wholly inappropriate for normal police matters," she said.

The police are publicly accountable. They should be given the right to seek warrants from a magistrate so that monitoring hackers is not seen as some shadowy activity linked with spying but part of the normal work of a publicly accountable body.

Mr Donovan said that even in cases where a victim can be identified, British Telecom's assistance was less than assured. "We have three cases going back to the beginning of February in which we have made repeated requests for assistance."

"I have sent a number of letters but have not even had a response." He thought concern over costs might be the problem.

Another problem centres on powers to search for evidence - a particular difficulty in catching creators of computer viruses. People who write rogue programmes that can at present delete data files and damage a computer's memory, spread the "disease" via software discs. The number of new "viruses" has risen by 700 per cent since last year, according to one survey.

Mr Donovan said the police will not have the powers to search a suspect's premises. "It has been suggested that we can use our powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. I am effectively being invited to arrest someone on the flimsiest of evidence in order to have a power of search," he said.

That was likely to lead to an increase in needless arrests. "We are saying this is wrong. We need a power of search in order to get the evidence to make an arrest," he said.

Mr Donovan added that the level of recorded computer crime had risen sharply from last year. As many crimes were reported to the squad in the first four months of 1990 as were reported in the whole of 1989.

He said it was hoped that a national survey would allow police to compile accurate and persuasive figures on the level of these crimes. The evidence would be presented to ministers in an attempt to secure more powers.



Mr Colvin: Police believe his Bill will not work

## Discretion of courts 'too wide'

By Quentin Cowdry  
Home Affairs Correspondent

GOVERNMENT plans to persuade courts to impose fewer prison terms and to be more consistent in sentencing are "far too timid", the Prison Reform Trust says today.

The trust argues that the recent wave of jail riots means it is imperative that ministers adopt more radical measures. Allowing courts to continue to enjoy a wide discretion in sentencing is a "gamble" that offers no guarantee that the present fall in the jail population will be sustained, it says.

In the trust's formal response to the Home Office White Paper, *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public*, it argues that the key weakness of the White Paper is its assumption that the creation of new sentencing criteria will, in itself, be enough to effect a substantial switch from custodial sentences to punishment in the community. It argues instead for the establishment of a sentencing council.

Among the trust's recommendations are automatic release of short-term prisoners after serving one third of sentence, abolition of the mandatory life sentence for murder, for the Home Secretary to lose his veto over parole decisions, and full "ethic monitoring" of court decisions.

## £1m donation to save the dormouse

By Ruth Gledhill

A DONATION of £1 million to the London Zoo is aimed at helping to conserve rare small mammals such as the British dormouse.

The zoo will use the money to relaunch the Clore Pavilion for small mammals and Moonlight World, "one of the greatest small mammal exhibits". The Clore Pavilion, completed 21 years ago after a donation of £200,000 from the late Sir Charles Clore, led the field for many years in small mammal exhibit design.

The latest donation comes from the Clore Foundation. Mrs Vivien Duffield, daughter of Sir Charles, said: "The art of keeping and showing animals has gone through a major change over the past 20 years. I would like to see more teaching and education, and more animals exhibited in their natural habitat."

As a result of the donation the zoo will be able to further develop its programme for the captive breeding of the dormouse and other small mammals.

Focus on Zoo, pages 17-19



Skibo Castle, pictured above, which was owned by the family of Mr Andrew Carnegie, the philanthropist, for more than 80 years, is on sale for £3.98 million. It is considered one of Scotland's finest castles, dating from about 1200. It was transformed into one of the grandest houses of this century in 1898 by Mr Carnegie, who made his fortune in steel. Politicians, writers, statesmen and the Royal Family were entertained there.

Skibo stands amid 7,000 acres of land in the highlands of Sutherland, overlooking its own loch. In Mr Carnegie's days the castle had a private golf course. The castle was bought by him from the Royal Bank of Scotland after the previous owner ran into financial difficulties. He added a massive west wing, decorated with panelling and silk wall-papers. After his death in 1919 it passed to his widow Louise, and then to their only child, Mrs Margaret Carnegie Miller, who used it as her summer residence until 1980.

Until recently, when it was sold to the

Globe Investment Trust, Skibo was the private home of a businessman. The estate is for sale through Edinburgh agents John Clegg & Co.

The castle has vast accommodation. In addition to the great hall, seven reception rooms and 11 main bedroom suites, it has over 100 other rooms. The purchase is considered ideal for the sportsman, with fishing, deer stalking, grouse and pheasant shooting, sailing and hill walking all within easy access.

# Big variations in approaches to sentencing

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

STARTLING disparities in sentences imposed by courts of different countries for crimes including rape and armed robbery are shown in the preliminary findings of a new international survey of sentencing practice.

The survey, by the International Bar Association, shows that huge differences of approach to serious crimes can exist between such countries as Norway or the Irish Republic, compared with England.

In response to a question on rape, outlining a hypothetical crime, the survey shows the likely sentence in England would be seven to 10 years. However, in Ireland it would have been 18 months; in Denmark two to three years; and in the Netherlands, Norway and Tanzania, three to five years.

Sentences for armed robbery ranged from 10 to 12 years in England; 10 to 15 years in Scotland; two years in Norway; five years in Ireland; and four to six years in The Netherlands. The likely Tanzanian penalty would be 15 years.

Each country was given the same set of circumstances. The rapist was a man aged 27

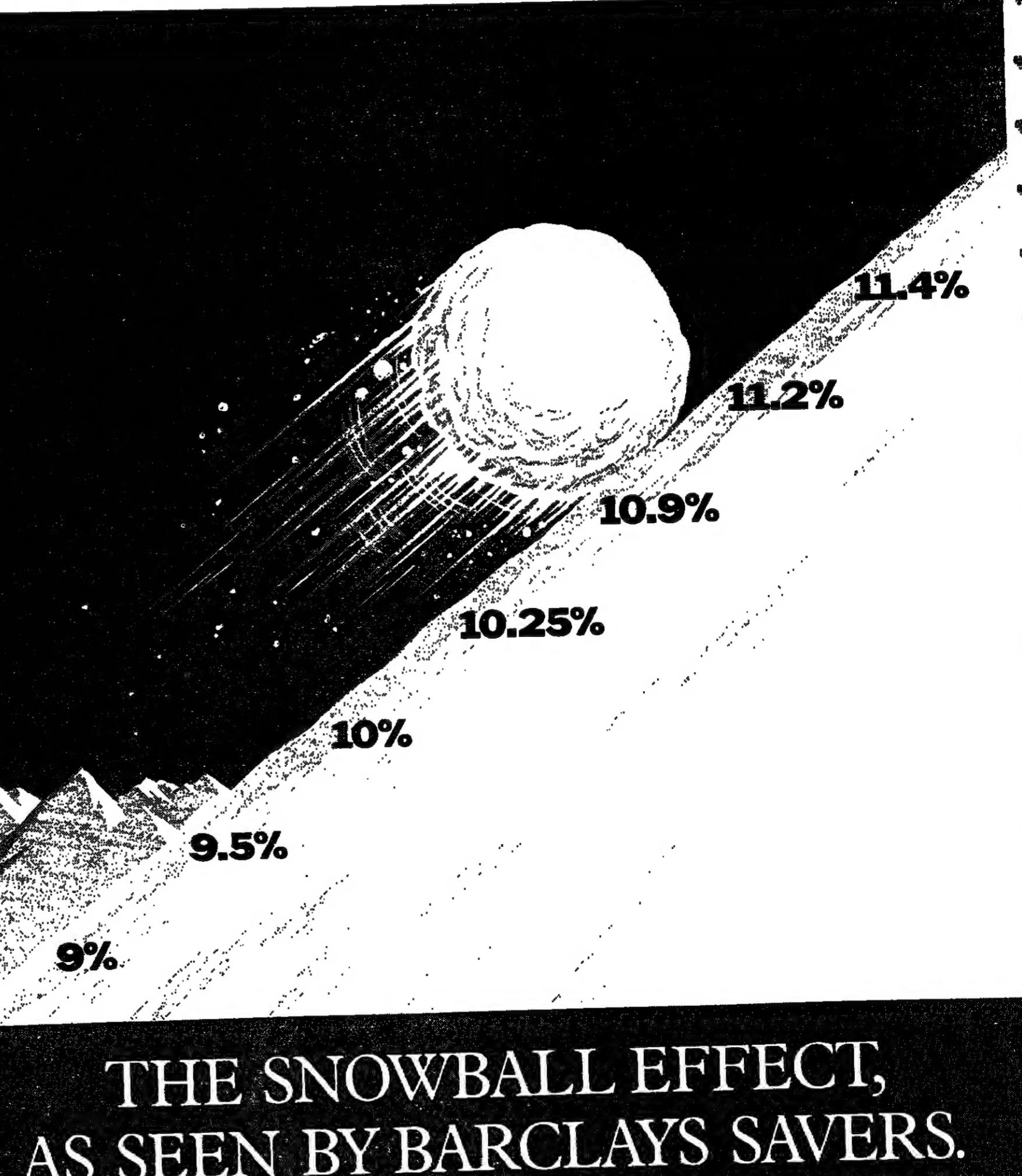
who attacked a girl of 16, standing alone late one evening at a bus-stop. He dragged her to a car park, punched her, threatened her with a knife and raped her. The man had a history of "minor sexual offences" and had served a previous sentence of three months in prison.

In the armed robbery case, the convicted offender, aged 19 and unemployed, had taken part in an armed bank raid. The raiders escaped with £800,000 but were caught after a police chase. The offender was the youngest member of the gang; his older brother was the leader.

However, there was proof that he had carried a gun and threatened a cashier and customers. He had several convictions for petty thefts and breach of the peace.

The initial survey involved 12 countries. It will now be widened to include other association members and the full final results will be published at the association's biennial conference in Nairobi in September.

Dr Peter Michael Müller, chairman of the association's criminal law committee, said the findings could fuel sentencing reform.



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£10,000 - £24,999	10.00%	10.38%
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## Seconds to evict a family facing mortgage arrears

MR AND Mrs Matthew Gauntlett lost their three-bedroom terrace house in Bournemouth, Dorset, at a court hearing which lasted just a few seconds — and which they did not even attend. Theirs is a cautionary tale in which just about everything went wrong, making them homeless only 10 months after moving into their first house.

In May 1988 they appear to have been badly advised by an over-eager estate agent who persuaded them to go for a £52,000 house. The Gauntletts — who have a son, aged four — had saved £6,000 for a deposit and Matthew, aged 26, was earning £12,000 a year with the possibility of an extra £1,000-a-year overtime.

There would be no difficulty, they were told, in raising a £46,000 mortgage — three-and-a-half times their gross income, taking potential overtime into account.

"I was amazed how easy it all was," Mrs Mary Gauntlett, aged 25, said. "The estate agent did all the form-filling for a mortgage with the Abbey National and we just signed our names. We didn't see anybody from Abbey National."

"Within three months we realized we were in trouble. Interest rates had gone up and we became overdrawn at the bank." They also fell behind

**The National Consumer Council has called for reform of county court procedures, complaining that home repossession hearings last only 90 seconds. Christopher Warman examines what happens and looks at the case of one couple who bought a house, lost it — and are now back in the market.**

with their mortgage repayments.

"The Abbey National did ask us several times to come and discuss matters, but we could not pluck up courage. Once or twice, on the phone, I told them: 'What's the point? We haven't got any money'."

Abbey National warned the Gauntletts that it would have to take court action if nothing was done and in December 1988 gained an order from Poole County Court to repossess. The Gauntletts then raised a £1,500 second mortgage from the Midland Bank and paid off £800 of their Abbey National arrears.

Then Mr Gauntlett became ill, his earnings suffered and interest rates went up again. On February 7 1989 the county court informed the Gauntletts that Abbey National was enforcing the repossession order and that the house was to be vacated in 28 days. They moved into rented

accommodation. In October 1989 their house was sold by Abbey National and in February this year it paid a cheque of £8,929 plus £247 interest — the profit from the transaction after all costs — to the Midland Bank, their secondary lenders.

"I don't know how much they sold our house for," Mrs Gauntlett said. "When we had paid all our debts, we finally received about £2,000."

"We were so financially naive and I can see now just how many things we did wrong. If we had had the sense and the courage to put our troubles in front of the building society from the very first we may never have lost the house. I can see now how dangerous it is to be talked into a mortgage based on potential overtime earnings."

The Gauntletts are now back in the housing market. Mr Gauntlett's earnings have improved and, with better advice, they are about to exchange contracts on a £36,000 house for which they have been given a 100 per cent mortgage.

Latest figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders show that in the second half of last year 7,430 properties were repossessed, 17 per cent more than the first half. The Building Societies Association expects an increase in reposessions for the first half of this year. There is already a record proportion of borrowers in serious arrears.

Repossession cases are normally held in chambers at the county court at the discretion of the judge. A few hold them in open court, rattling through dozens of cases in a matter of seconds or minutes for each case.

The Lord Chancellor's department's response to the complaint that cases are heard without real evidence of the financial circumstances involved is: "The court hearing is the end of a long process, after the solicitors for both parties have gone into the details of the borrower's ability to pay."

Most cases never come to court, but the process begins with a writ served on the borrower, and if there is no response the plaintiff comes to the court asking for a judgement. In many cases, an order is made provisional, for 28 days, with the stipulation that it must not be served without the leave of the court.

By this time people will have been given many chances to pay off their arrears.

The scheme has the support of Birstling Parish Council and most villagers signed a petition favouring the scheme.

## Village plans for affordable homes

A COUNCIL is drawing up a pioneering agreement with six young people to ensure that they will be able to afford homes in their Warwickshire village.

The six, all in their 20s, were born or brought up in the community of Birstling, near Rye. None, however, can afford the minimum price of £75,000 to £80,000 for property in the village, which lies in the commuter belt.

Rugby council has given the six conditional planning permission to build their own homes on land on the edge of the village that has been protected from development. In return the six have agreed to be legally bound by an agreement that will state that if they decide to sell, they will offer their homes at an affordable price, and only to other first-time buyers from the village or a neighbouring community. Under the agree-

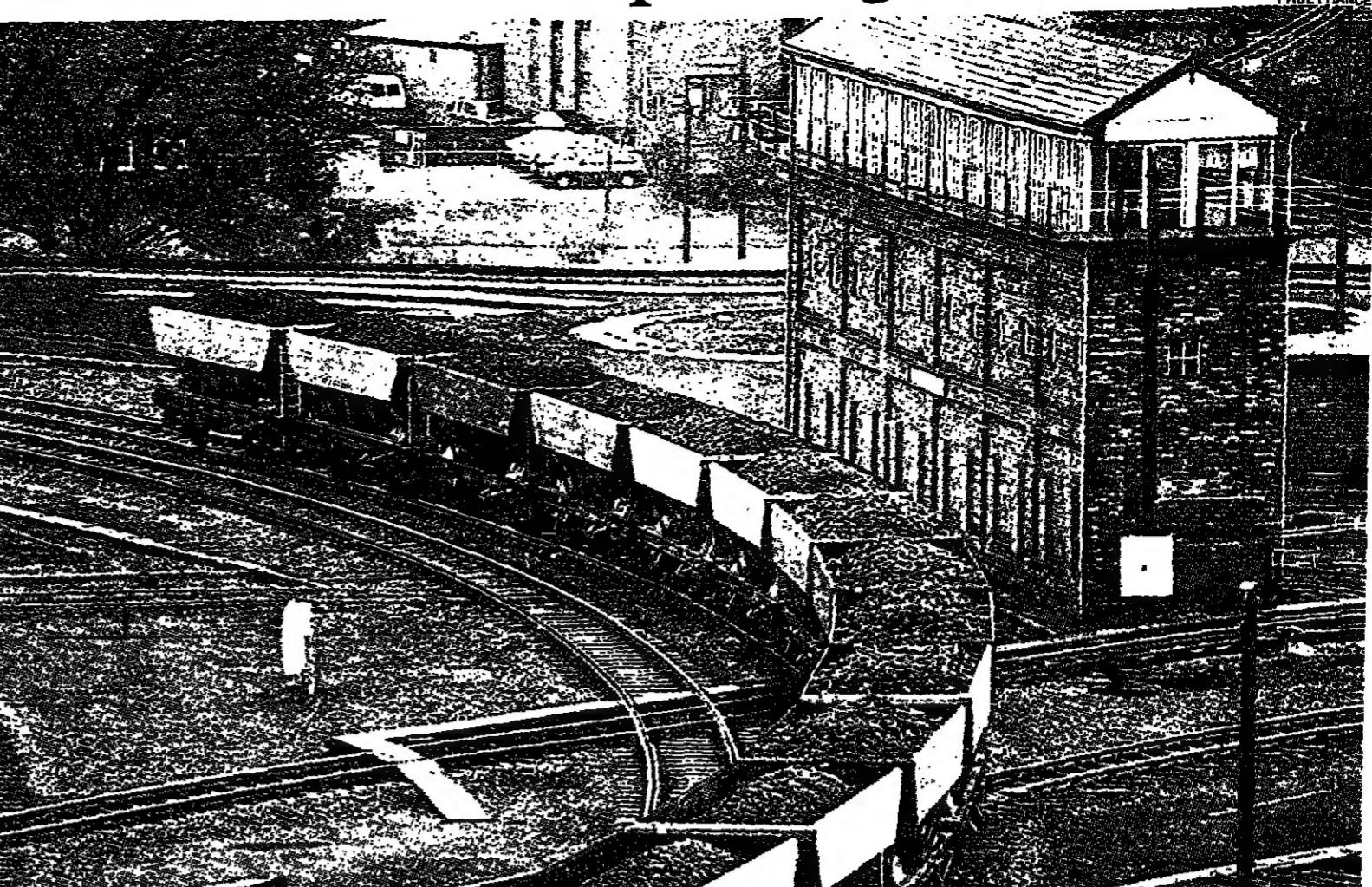
ment, the six villagers will be able to buy their plots for £3,000 each from a local estate. Had general planning permission been granted, they would have had to pay up to £25,000.

Solicitors are trying to overcome legal obstacles to draw up the terms of the agreement, which the local authority believes will help to stop the drift of young people away from rural areas. The villagers will now be able to build their homes for an estimated £40,000 each.

The four two-bedroomed houses and two three-bedroomed homes will be set around courtyard. The villagers, three of whom work for a building company and two of whom are artisans, will do most of the work themselves.

The scheme has the support of Birstling Parish Council and most villagers signed a petition favouring the scheme.

## BR's demolition plan signals trouble



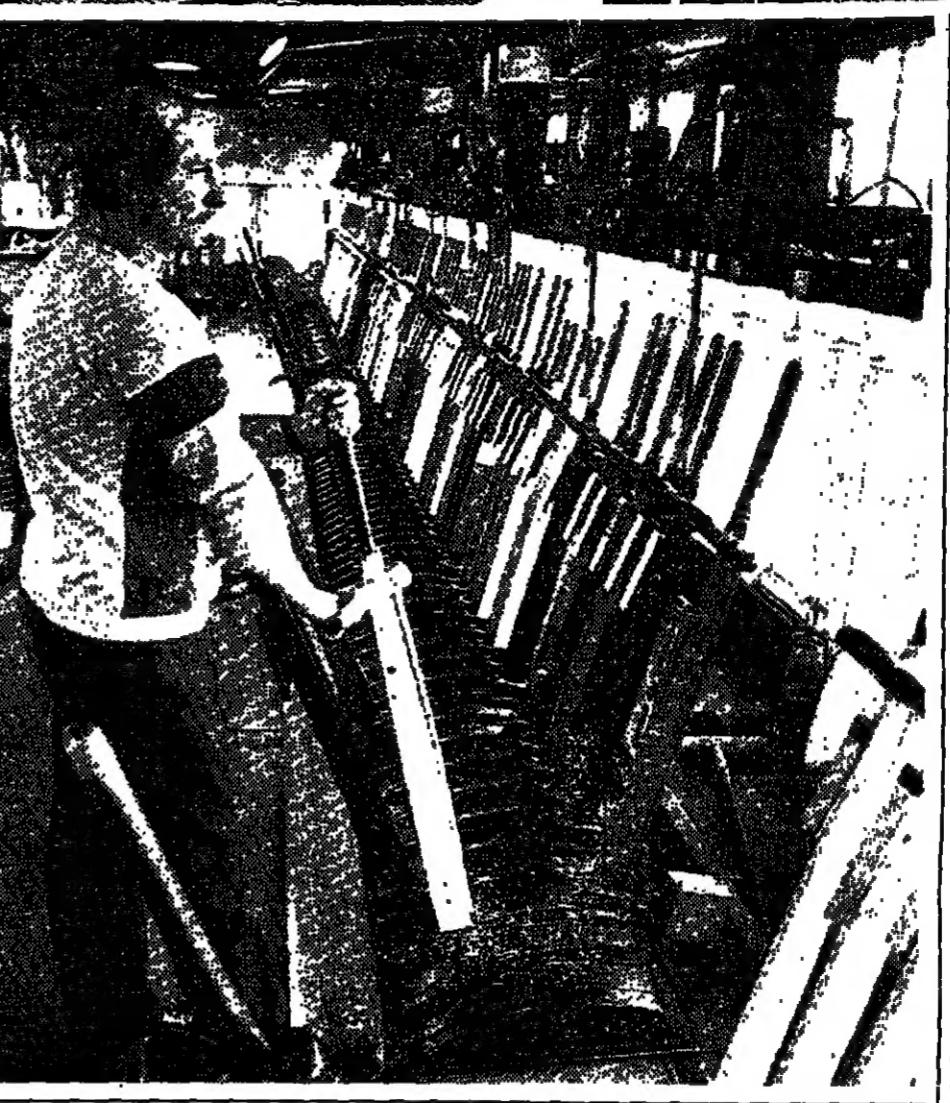
OUTSIDE and inside a signal box at the centre of a conservation fight. British Rail sees it as crumbling and obsolescent; railway enthusiasts say it is a "cathedral among signal boxes" (David Sapsted writes).

An appeal has been launched to save the century-old Severn Bridge signal box at Shrewsbury, Shropshire, due to be replaced next year by an automatic signalling centre. However, London Midland region said yesterday its plans eventually to demolish the box were going ahead.

The Shropshire Railway Society and the Shrewsbury Civic Society insist that the brick building is "the most interesting signal box in this land and should be preserved" and want it to become a museum. British Rail says its sister box, north of Crewe Junction, represents a much more feasible project for conservation.

"The Severn Bridge box is almost falling down, public access would be virtually impossible because it is surrounded by lines, and developing it as a museum would be extremely costly," BR says.

Campaigners claim that the building is the largest signal box of its kind in Europe. London Midland region said yesterday that there were no plans to add the box to the 1,800 preserved buildings on BR land, many "uninhabited except for rats and dovers".



### Complaint rejected on gun film

THE Press Council has rejected a complaint by a chief constable of newspaper harassment after an indiscriminate shooting rampage in which a man was killed, it was announced today.

Sir Stanley Bailey, Chief Constable of Northumbria, claimed that a *Daily Mail* reporter pressed police for the return of photographs of an incident in which, it was alleged, Robert Sartin shot dead a man and injured 14 other people in Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, in April last year. Mr Sartin, aged 21, schizophrenic, was last week found unfit to face charges of murder and attempted murder at Teesside Crown Court.

The council, the watchdog body for newspapers, said that the *Daily Mail* had bought a film from a local photographer and had handed it to police on request. The paper owned the film, and police should have complied with its request for its return or have supplied copies of photographs.

It was not improper for the paper to "press" for the film's return by threatening legal action and approaching to the police, it said.

The council, in a general inquiry into press coverage of the incident, found that, except in the publishing of pictures of the accused before trial, there were no grounds for complaint.

### Proposal to allow tracing of fathers 'very destructive'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

THOUSANDS of infertile couples could be denied the chance of having children and many family relationships could be put at risk if certain aspects of the Government's Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill become law, two senior specialists said yesterday.

The anonymity of men donating sperm used in artificial insemination would no longer be guaranteed, and children born as a result of the technique would have the right to find out about their genetic origins. Mr Peter Braude and Dr Martin Johnson, both of Cambridge University, said.

Male infertility accounts for about half of all cases of infertility in Britain, and is virtually untreatable except through donor insemination. Recruitment of donors however is becoming increasingly difficult and is likely to become more so if their anonymity is not ensured, the specialists said.

Such a right could lead to considerable destruction of family relationships because many children believed to be the product of a marriage were in fact not the offspring of the husband but the result of some other sexual liaison.

"The Bill as constituted cannot give clear and unambiguous evidence of genetic paternity without opening the floodgates to a situation very destructive to the family."

They said that, under the Bill, the names of sperm

### Fireman killed in store blaze

A "flashover" explosion caused by a build-up of vapours was blamed yesterday for the death of a fireman in a blaze that destroyed a furniture store in Blackpool (David Sapsted writes).

Two other officers were injured in the explosion which killed Mr John Singleton, aged 33, a father of two, from Bispham, Lancashire. The firemen were among 100 officers called to the fire on Saturday night.

Firemen were still at the scene yesterday, damping down the wrecked two-storey building. Police said there would be an investigation into the cause of the fire.

### Woman sheriff

Mrs Abel Smith, aged 50, of Ravenshead, Nottinghamshire, has been appointed Nottingham's first female High Sheriff since the post was created 1,000 years ago.

### Plans rejected

Plans for a multi-million motorway-style filling station, conference hotel, restaurant and Thomas Hardy "heritage centre" near Stinsford, Dorset, have been rejected by Dorset County Council.

### Film boat refit

A Florida hotelier who owns the African Queen, the boat which featured in the film of that name, has sent it to a firm in Storrington, West Sussex, for a refit because he could not find anyone in the United States able to restore its 1911 steam engine.

### Winning song

Italy won this year's Eurovision Song Contest with a song entitled "Allegro 1990". Ireland and France shared second place, and the United Kingdom entry, sung by Emma Booth, was sixth.

### Cricket replay

Mr Harry Price, aged 53, a cricket fanatic from Southampton, is having a ball-by-ball commentary of Hampshire's 1988 Benson & Hedges cup final win over Derbyshire played repeatedly to him by to coax him out of a coma.

### Melting point

An ice skating rink opened in Tavistock, Devon, five months ago, is closing because its refrigeration machines cannot stop the 2 in thick ice surface melting in the heat.

### Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are: £100,000, number 17B5 531280, winner lives in Surrey; £50,000, 26TL 501938 (Sheffield); £25,000, 29DT 123840 (Lancashire).

A double-decker bus crashed into the rear of a steam train which was waiting to cross the road. The driver was trapped in the wreckage and died.

The accident happened in a residential area of the town.

It is understood that the bus was being driven by a woman who was not licensed to drive a double-decker.

The driver of the bus was taken to hospital with minor injuries.

The steam train was delayed by the accident.

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# Illinois race pits Senate veteran against Bush protégé

From Peter Stothard  
US Editor, Chicago

PRESIDENT Bush's policies are to be tested in elections across America this autumn — in few places more clearly than in Illinois, where the Senate race has been dubbed "the season's classic".

On the one side is a "modern Republican" woman aged 50, a former teacher who has become a close friend of the President and his wife. Even ideological opponents speak of a "dynamic politician" who might be on the White House ticket herself in 1992.

On the other side is one of the most flamboyant traditional Democrats, a 60-year-old enthusiast for higher taxes and spending who ran for President in 1988 and still hopes for influence over the future of his party.

Senator Paul Simon is the incumbent — although with barely more than 50 per cent of the vote in 1984 — and he is the favourite to keep the seat in one of America's most carefully watched "bellwether" states.

But Mrs Lynn Martin is a 10-year member of the House of Representatives who successfully led the Bush campaign for Illinois in 1988. She has big support

from a national Republican machine which has made her one of its top six prospects (probably the very top) whose victory would overturn the Democrats' Senate majority.

If the President's A-team of three men and three women can win in Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, Hawaii, Rhode Island and Illinois, it will be an unprecedented boost for the White House. If, as analysts predict, only half of them are successful, it will still mark a critical stage towards their aim of winning the Senate in 1992.

Republicans fancy their chances highly this year, both because of Mr Bush's record popularity and the continuing disarray among the Democratic congressional leadership. But another reason, according to independent election-watchers Mr Charles Cook and Mr Stewart Rothenberg, is the calibre of the Republican candidates.

Mrs Martin is one of eight Republicans who have decided to try their luck upstairs. But, even in a strong field, Mrs Martin has appeared particularly formidable. She is tough, youthful, apparently tireless and very witty. She offers herself as a fiscal conservative and a social moderate. Her claim to be against

new taxes but to be a strong environmentalist and education advocate is central to the notion of a broad-based Bush coalition for the 1990s.

Her closeness to the President is a spur to her more ambitious supporters, who can expect influential Washington careers if she wins. It is also a red rag to her opponents, who are out to destroy her boast that Illinois will have better services without paying more tax.

Both candidates have media consultants who are masters of the art of personal insults. Mrs Martin has the past master, Mr Roger Ailes, who did the dirtier work for the Bush campaign in 1988. It is considered to be only a matter of time before the race turns nasty.

This weekend the two sides were chasing the ethnic vote. Mr Simon, sporting his trademark bow-tie, accompanied by bow-tied supporters and aides wearing bow-tie badges, had a Polish breakfast and led a Polish rally.

His opponent, who two years ago made a convenient discovery of her own Polish ancestry, ate the same red-ribbed breakfast before walking a mile or two with a Mexican parade.

Mrs Martin has been likened to a young Mrs Thatcher for breaking the

male domination of the Republican congressional leadership. On her television commercials, wearing a periwinkle-blue suit and barely controlling the sharpness of her voice, there is some personal resemblance too. But, on the street outside Manny's Barber Shop on the south-west side, it is hard to imagine the Prime Minister ever dancing to Spanish disco music, still less doing so in the political heartland of her opponents.

Half way through the march she offered a follower a lift to the next stop. "If you win, you won't be offering me lifts then," he said. "True," she replied, "and isn't it great that we know where we stand from the start?"

Politics lies deep in every part of Chicago life, particularly among the black, Hispanic and Polish communities. The toughest task for the Simon campaign is to repair its links to the south-side blacks, the home constituents of the Rev Jesse Jackson. They have not forgiven the Senator for preventing his 1988 delegates from switching to Mr Jackson at the Democratic Convention.

Earlier this year, after a bitterly racial local election, in which the black candidate lost, Jackson supporters were told not to vote in November — a

decision which Mr Simon must try to overturn since he needs at least 90 per cent support in core Democrat areas if he is to win.

The Republicans have had electoral shocks this year, too. In their primary to select a candidate for Governor, the experienced and well-known choice of the moderate party machine, lost a third of the vote to a young, unknown opponent of high taxes and abortion.

Mrs Martin hopes that her anti-tax rhetoric will overcome the prejudices of those on the right who oppose her support of liberal abortion law. But, like her opponent, she cannot afford for any of her party's hard-core support to stay out of the voting booths.

Senator Simon is a clever, chimerical politician who manages to look like a countryman in his southern agricultural homeland and a sophisticated internationalist in the city. As he worked his way around the Polish breakfast on Saturday, he looked like a parish priest.

Mrs Martin, by contrast, towered elegantly, but rather distantly, above the breakfasters. She was unrecognized when she arrived but, when she came to speak, was heard with intent respect. "They're getting interested," she re-

marked with some satisfaction at an early raid on her opponent's territory.

Senator Simon's brownstone HQ within Chicago's expensive "Loop" district shows the benefits of the incumbent. Mrs Martin's base — both politically and for this campaign — is in the suburbs. Her campaign to win the Windy City is being fought from a blasted airport-side site.

It is there that her team plans the fund-raising visits from President and Cabinet, the televised attacks on their opponent's liberalism and absences from the Senate; and it is there that they search for the defining issue, the decisive weakness to be exploited.

Mrs Martin is keen to revive a piece of Illinois history and rerun the Lincoln-Douglas debates of the 1858 Senate race, visiting the same towns and covering the same broad ground of competing political philosophies. Senator Simon is not thought to be so enthusiastic.

The two sides are still negotiating. But, as one supporter put it, "while the Democrat Judge Douglas did win the Senate race in 1858, no one in their right mind would want to risk casting a politician like Lynn Martin as the future President Lincoln".

## Cartels hit by cocaine seizure

From A Correspondent  
Bogotá

THE Colombian Government has scored another desperately needed victory in its war against the cocaine cartels, with the arrest of 18 suspects and the seizure of 12 tonnes of refined cocaine in the departments of Meta and Caquetá on the Peruvian and Brazilian borders.

The raids were part of a bigger anti-narcotics effort known as "Operation Autumn", according to Brigadier-General Humberto Correa Castañeda of the Army's Seventh Brigade. Earlier, 214kg (481lb) of cocaine was found in food on a ship about to sail from the Caribbean port of Cartagena to the Colombian island of Provincia.

Successes against the cartels are carrying an increasingly high price. Seven people were shot dead in Medellin on Friday, during a raid on an office said by police to house front companies for Senior Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the head of the Medellin cartel.

The dead included Mariano Ostina Montoya, whom police said was one of Senior Escobar's financial managers and wanted for murder. But the raid has raised questions about the tactics of the SAS-trained anti-narcotics force formed last year to tackle the cocaine cartels. It appears that at least four of the dead were not wanted for any crime.

The war between the two main cocaine cartels, from Cali and Medellin, seems to have started up again with the detonation of a huge car bomb outside a supermarket in Cali on Thursday night. The explosion killed four and injured another 28.

While the security forces have concentrated on breaking up the Medellin cartel and, in particular, capturing Senior Escobar, the Cali cartel has continued to thrive, according to narcotics intelligence experts. The group has a much lower profile under the supposed leadership of Senior Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela.

Before August 1989, the Cali cartel was believed to be responsible for about 20 per cent of the cocaine entering the US and Europe; the Medellin cartel claimed about 60 per cent.

• MIAMI: An alleged boss of the Cali drug cartel and an associate pleaded guilty on Saturday to drug charges which carry a maximum of life imprisonment, court officials said. The trial of Senior Luis Santacruz Echeverri, considered the US co-ordinator for the Cali drug cartel, is expected to last another month. (AFP)



The wreckage of a Miami-bound DC-6 cargo aircraft protruding from shattered homes after the plane crashed on to a residential area of Guatemala City, killing at least 17 people, including three crew. Rescuers found bodies under the rubble of homes demolished in the crash, apparently caused when the plane lost an engine. Explosions triggered by several home propane gas tanks hampered rescue efforts

## De Klerk takes a 'lap of honour' through Europe

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town

PRESIDENT de Klerk embarks on a tour of European capitals this week in the hope of reaping diplomatic and economic rewards from his historic agreement with the African National Congress.

Hundreds of people have been killed every year since the Sikh insurgency started in 1983. India regularly blames Pakistan for arming, training and harboring militants in both states. Pakistan routinely denies the charges.

Hundreds of bombs have exploded in Pakistan's cities and villages in the past few years, but most have occurred along the rugged North-West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan, where Muslim guerrillas are fighting to overthrow the Soviet-supported Government in Kabul. (AP)

• DELHI Security forces have shot dead 10 suspected Muslim militants in Jammu and Kashmir, the Press Trust of India reported yesterday.

Soldiers shot and killed four militants in Handwara district on Saturday when they attacked a security patrol, the agency said. On the same day federal troops killed six other separatists elsewhere in the state. (AFP)

Government sources say Mr de Klerk will endeavour to

persuade his hosts that he has already passed the point of no return in dismantling apartheid, and that they ought to replace their sticks with a few carrots — specifically to help relieve the economic plight of the black majority.

He does not intend to raise the issue of sanctions, although he would welcome any moves to lift them. Rather he will be seeking financial assistance in creating the more equitable society his foreign critics have consistently demanded.

The sources say it is of paramount importance that other countries help narrow the massive socio-economic gap between the black and white communities, and thereby reduce the potential for conflict. In practical terms, this means foreign investment and access to IMF funds to create jobs. Thus, in addition to the political discussions, meetings are planned with business leaders and journalists.

He leaves tomorrow night for Paris to meet President Mitterrand, and is scheduled to have talks with Mrs Thatcher in London on May 19. Other countries on the itinerary are West Germany, Greece, Portugal, Switzerland, Spain, Belgium and Italy.

A member of the delegation said remarks by Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, that he had not the

slightest doubt about Mr de Klerk's sincerity, should be recognized abroad.

"We are not putting a high profile on sanctions, but if the Europeans are prepared to concede that there is no turning back, and there is not, then sufficient grounds exist for them to help us rather than hinder us. We are also coming to listen to their views, to ask them what they feel still has to be done before relations can be normalized."

As he sets off on what amounts to a tentative lap of honour in the hope of picking up a few prizes, President de Klerk leaves behind a bitter and disillusioned predecessor.

Mr P. W. Botha, who was unceremoniously bundled from power after suffering a stroke last year, resigned from the National Party at the weekend in a fit of pique at the reform process. He said he was dissatisfied with his successor's leadership.

Mr Botha told a reporter that he objected specifically to the inclusion of Mr Joe Slovo, the South African Communist Party leader, in the ANC delegation to last week's talks.

## Saudis try to heal Syria-Iraq split

Baghdad

CROWN Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia arrived in Baghdad yesterday for talks with President Saddam Hussein on ending a decade-long rift between Syria and Iraq.

The Crown Prince flew to Damascus on Saturday on the first leg of a tour of four Arab capitals aimed at seeking a reconciliation between President Saddam and President Assad of Syria.

A rapprochement is regarded as a vital condition for convening an emergency Arab summit in the Iraqi capital later this month to discuss the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and other pressing issues.

Crown Prince Abdullah was also understood to be pressing the Syrians to end a seven-year feud with the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, Mr Yassir Arafat, who has close relations with the Iraqi President.

In Damascus, no details of Crown Prince Abdullah's talks with President Assad were disclosed. But the government-run daily *Tishrin* said that the visit came "within the framework of pan-Arab efforts for unity".

for unity". The Saudi prince's trip to Syria coincided with a visit to Baghdad by King Hussein of Jordan, who is also working for Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation.

Crown Prince Abdullah was greeted in Baghdad by Mr Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, and the second-ranking figure after President Saddam. A Saudi Arabian Embassy official said the prince would meet President Saddam later yesterday. He is scheduled to visit Cairo and Amman when he leaves Baghdad.

President Saddam is keen to hold the summit in Baghdad to demonstrate that the Arab world is behind him amid what he views as a concentrated Western campaign against him over his drive to build up his military arsenal.

Crown Prince Abdullah is chairman of an Arab League committee formed at the 1982 Arab summit in Fez, Morocco, which was instrumental in promoting a rapprochement between Syria and Jordan. Many obstacles remain to be overcome before Syria and Iraq can improve relations. (AP)

## Medals end 22 years of disgrace for crew tortured by Koreans

From Charles Bremner  
New York

ANOTHER ghost from the Vietnam era was laid to rest yesterday when the US Navy awarded medals to the captain and crew of the USS Pueblo, 22 years after they were captured and tortured by North Korea and then disgraced by their own Government. President Bush told the men in a message: "America owes a debt of gratitude to the crew of the Pueblo."

A double-decker passenger train filled with football fans crashed into the back of the steam train, which was packed with railway enthusiasts. Work to free those still trapped in the wreckage was hampered as access to the site is only by rail and a dirt track.

Cricket



Mr. Bucher, left, joking with Mr. Willie Bussell, a former Pueblo shipmate, before receiving their medals in San Diego vessel received prisoner-of-war status. Congress to pass a law forcing the Navy to rescind its refusal.

The USS Pueblo, unarmed and equipped for electronic surveillance, was captured in January, 1968 as it lay off North Korea in what the Koreans claimed were territorial waters but which the

United States maintained were international. The ship was attacked by five torpedo boats and a squadron of MiG fighters. One seaman was killed.

Commander Bucher and his crew were taken to Pyongyang, where they were tortured until they signed confessions to spying and trying "to provoke war". The men were paraded in public and their humiliating appearances on television and in photographs added to America's sense of frustration as anguish over the Vietnam War was reaching its peak.

On their return after 11 months in captivity, Commander Bucher and his men were effectively detained by the Navy and questioned for eight weeks. An inquiry ordered him to be court-martialed along with another officer, but the Secretary of the Navy stepped in and ruled that there would be no further punishment. The Commander of the Pacific Fleet closed the case with reprimands.

In books and television documentaries, Mr. Bucher and his men have accused the Government of the time of treating them as scapegoats. They described appalling treatment at the hands of the North Koreans.

Last week Mr. Bucher recounted details that continued unabated before he signed the confession. He was forced to his knees while interrogators pulled the trigger of pistols jammed against his head. He attempted suicide. However, after he was told that his crew would all be shot, he relented and "confessed". The crew was also subjected to beatings and psychological torture for months.

In their confessions and appearances, the crew tried to bamboozle the North Koreans by inserting references in their confessions to friends with names such as "Gordo Gefolows" — garbage follows.

Mr. Bucher, who has established himself as a watercolor artist, accused the Navy of failing to equip his ship for hostile action and providing no protection. The crew managed to throw all secret equipment overboard before capture, but they were unable to destroy secret documents, which fell into the hands of the Koreans.

In his message read out at the ceremony, President Bush said:

"Your patriotism and your devotion to duty under the most trying circumstances were in keeping with the most indomitable spirit of all America POWs. I salute each of you for your unfailing resolve and your distinguished service to our country."

Congressman Nicholas Mavroules, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, who sponsored the legislation that made the Pueblo crew eligible for the honour, said: "Our action today is only a small token of what the people of this country owe these Americans. I apologize for all the citizens of this nation because it has taken us so long to recognize your bravery and your service."

The ceremony was the second in a week in which senior officers have voiced bitterness towards their own service. Last Friday the retiring captain of the USS Iowa wept in a farewell ceremony as he accused the Navy of injustice in its investigation of the explosion in the battleship's gun turret a year ago. Four dozen sailors were killed in the blast, which the Navy attributed to a deliberate action by a disgruntled seaman.

# Moscow demands guarantees over Germany in Nato

From Ian Murray, Bonn

EXPRESSING Soviet support for speedy German reunification, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, announced during the first round of "two plus four" talks here: "The Cold War is over. Our planet, with Europe, is now embarking on a new road."

He also appeared to accept reluctantly that a united Germany could be a member of Nato if it so wished, echoing Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, who said that "ultimately the fundamental decision with respect to a nation's military forces is going to be up to that country itself".

In return for the Soviet acceptance, the three Western allies — Britain, the United States and France — along with West Germany, must provide economic and security guarantees to satisfy Soviet public opinion and the

military. If they failed to do this, Moscow still retained a veto over reunification.

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister who chaired the meeting, said a united Germany within a single Europe would make a significant contribution to world stability. Expansion of the Conference on Security and Cooperation (CSCE) in Europe would resolve Soviet fears. He saw no real problems over reunification, a view echoed by Mr Shevardnadze.

Between now and November — the target date for a unity agreement — West Germany will be working hard behind the scenes to reassure the Kremlin that a united country will honour and even improve the old, close economic links between the Soviet Union and East Germany. Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, had a long session

## West rallies to aid Gorbachov

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

ALL Nato governments now seem to be in agreement that the West should do everything possible to help President Gorbachov stay in power.

Last week's foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels and the "two plus four" session on German reunification in Bonn on Saturday were both significant steps towards that objective. "There is a general feeling that we should help Gorbachov," one British diplomatic source said yesterday.

It was clear at the "two plus four" talks that the foreign ministers from Britain, the US, France and West Germany were anxious to find the right form of conciliatory language to present the talks in the best light for Moscow.

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, was able to come away with a reassuring smile and a personal belief that the most sensitive issue — Nato's wish to have a reunified Germany in the alliance — could be resolved.

Nato sources in Brussels yesterday said: "We hope that the Soviets will come to realize that a unified Germany being a member of Nato is also in their interest."

They noted the gradual change in Soviet thinking on the issue, from an insistence on German neutrality to a suggestion of membership in both Nato and the Warsaw Pact, to a form of non-alignment.

"We hope they will change their minds in the near future," another Nato official said. "We realize it's hard for them to accept, but we don't see a better solution."

The most significant evidence of the West's decision to assist Mr Gorbachov was the announcement by the Americans last week that longstanding plans to modernize the short-range nuclear Lance missile system were to be abandoned.

As one senior British official said yesterday: "There was no real need to announce such a move since Nato governments had already decided to postpone the decision until 1992. It would have been possible to stick to that agenda, even though it might have been difficult to sell to

Leading article, page 11

Mr Shevardnadze: Sees few problems ahead

## CDU tipped to win local polls

From Anne McElroy, East Berlin

EAST Germans went to the polls for the second time in seven weeks yesterday in the country's first free local elections set to replace most of the communist incumbents in town halls with conservative Christian Democrats.

According to a television exit poll survey the Christian Democrats lost some votes to small grassroots groups but retained their position as the strongest political force.

The exit poll, conducted by West German experts, predicted that the CDU would win 38 per cent of the vote, about three points down on its score in the general election seven weeks ago. It put the Social Democrats, who are in the coalition Government, at about the same level on 22 per cent, but indicated the resurrected and reformed communists had lost votes.

The election to 7,900 local parliaments completes the major political restructuring in East Germany after 40 years of communist domination ranging from central government down to village councils.

But, in contrast with the enthusiasm of March 18, they showed signs of election fatigue. The central electoral

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# One million cross Soviet border for Moldavian reunion

Lenseni, Soviet Union

AN ESTIMATED million joyous Romanians surged into the Soviet Union on Sunday for their first reunion with fellow Moldavians in 45 years.

In a humanitarian gesture, the Soviet authorities agreed to open for just one day eight crossing points along a 200-mile stretch of the Prut river, which has marked the division of Moldavia between Romania and the Soviet Union since 1945.

At the Leuseni bridge alone, more than 300,000 Romanians poured over the river to be greeted with hugs, kisses — and in some cases tearful reunions with long-lost relations — by Soviet Moldavians who had gathered in their thousands on the other side.

Once across the river bridge it was clear that the Soviet guards had given up all hope of controlling the crowds and they quickly entered into the festive spirit, exchanging hugs with Romanian visitors.

The event, organized by Moldavian cultural associations on both sides of the border, had been billed in advance as "The Bridge of Flowers". In the event, it could also be described as "The Bridge of Tears". Mil-

lions of flowers were indeed tossed over the border bridge, until the Prut became a brilliantly coloured carpet of tulips, roses and peonies. But it was the display of sheer human emotion by a divided people that will remain in the memory of Western observers at the scene.

A Romanian Army colonel on duty at the bridge said that until last December's overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu he had been unable to reveal that he was born on the Soviet side of the Moldavia border because the executed dictator banned people with "foreign connections" from joining the armed forces.

With tears rolling down his cheeks, he declared: "Ceausescu did many evil things but he was never able to take the love out of our souls. There

Moldavians in the Bessarabia border area were divided in 1945 when Stalin insisted on retaining boundaries agreed with Nazi Germany. This was never queried by Romania's post-war communist leadership. But, after last December's revolution, the long-dormant movement to renew links was reborn." (Reuter)



## Fear of violence casts shadow on Romania election

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

WITH no tradition of successful multi-party democracy, and the immediate legacy of the most repressive dictatorship in the old communist bloc, it is no surprise that the organizers of Romania's first free elections in 53 years are obsessed with security.

The 42-page decree law covering the May 20 election of a new president and parliament stipulates that each of the 13,000 polling booths will be surrounded by a *cordon sanitaire* from which all political groups will be excluded.

Police and army personnel will guard polling stations. "The fear of intimidation is very great, and suspicions are understandably high in a country which has no real experience of political freedom," one official said. The

## Norway's warning on whales

Oslo — Mr Svein Munkejord, the Norwegian Minister of Fisheries, has hinted that Norway might pull out of the International Whaling Commission after its July meeting in the Netherlands if there is no progress in efforts to have the minke whale removed from the list of protected species. (A Correspondent writes).

"We feel that we have sufficient documentation and scientific proof that this particular stock of minke whale, the north-east Atlantic minke whale, is definitely not a threatened stock," he said.

## Warship protest

Sydney — Greenpeace protesters said they were punched after getting on a visiting US warship suspected of carrying nuclear weapons.

## Frog suit

New York — A Long Island student is suing her university for violating her constitutional rights by requiring her to dissect a frog.

## Ordeal over

Rome — Signor Carlo Celadon, aged 20, returned to his home in northern Italy where he was kidnapped 27 months ago, ending the longest kidnapping deal in Italian history.

## Plane hijacked

Mogadishu — Two Somalis hijacked a light plane from southern Somalia to the Ethiopian border and are holding the pilot and three passengers, one British, hostage. (AFP)

## Firing rules

Jerusalem — Israel's navy chief has issued new rules on firing at sea after Jordan complained that an Israeli gunboat in the Red Sea opened fire while King Hussein sailed past. (Reuter)

## Rebels concede

Managua — Nicaragua's Contra rebels have agreed to start handing in their weapons tomorrow and disarm fully by June 10 after receiving guarantees on their personal safety from the country's new Government. (Reuter)



Pirate festival: A young participant in the annual Ban festival yesterday on Hong Kong's Cheung Chau island, held to placate the spirits of ancestors killed by pirates

## China lectures Mongolia leader

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

PRESIDENT OCHIRBAT of Mongolia left Peking yesterday after receiving a lecture on how to deal with unrest from Mr Jiang Zemin, China's party leader. Opposition protests have spread since he began his visit.

Mr Jiang told President Ochirbat on Saturday: "Because Mongolia is China's next door neighbour we have been paying close attention to the changes taking place there". Offering a little avuncular advice, Mr Jiang continued: "Developing countries must have stability before they can develop their economies; upheavals not only can impede the economic development of a country, but will also greatly jeopardize its destiny."

China has not advised any country to copy its example of last June's suppression of peaceful protest. But Mr Jiang's words appeared to go further than the usual studied indifference to upheavals in the Soviet Union and its allies.

While Chinese Communist Party documents for internal consumption have bitterly criticized the collapse of the Communist Party's monopoly on power, in public leaders have been careful to say they will not comment on the domestic affairs of another country. Mr Jiang, too, softened his words by saying that he believed the Mongolian Revolutionary Party was ca-

pable of solving its own problems.

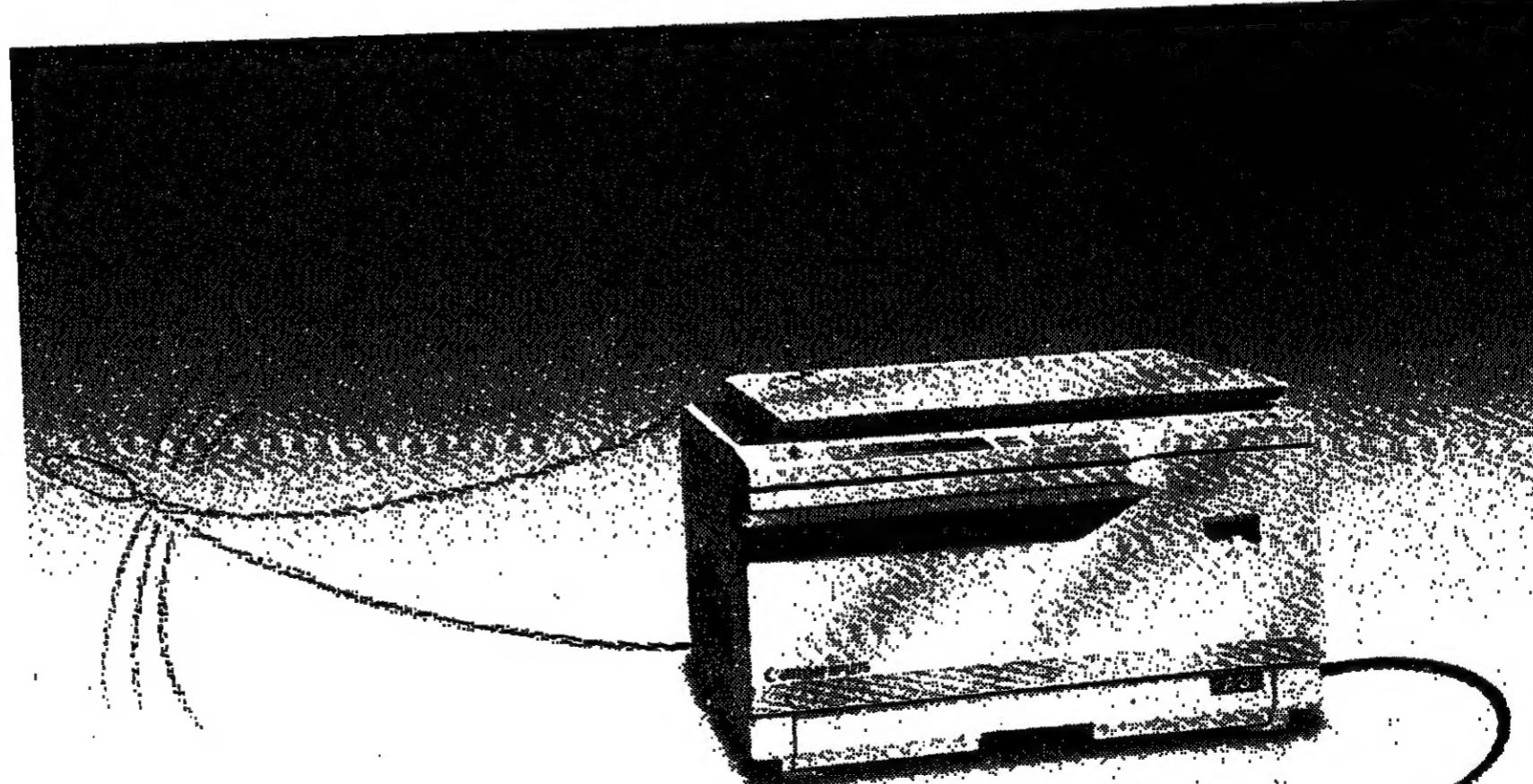
As Mr Ochirbat took his leave, President Yang Shangkun of China said that the visit marked a new starting point in bilateral state and party relations. China's relations with Mongolia have paralleled those with the Soviet Union and, taking the lead from President Gorbachov's Peking summit last year, Mr Ochirbat's is the first top-level Mongolian visit to China since 1962.

Mr Yang described the visit as "very successful", and Mr Ochirbat replied: "Everything turned out as we wished," according to China's official news agency. They signed agreements on science and technology, environmental protection and public health.

China is believed to be concerned that Mongolian nationalism, which is closely caught up in Mongolia's opposition movement, might spread into Chinese-ruled Inner Mongolia.

• ULAN BATOR: About 1,000 Mongolians demonstrated on Sunday in support of pro-democracy protesters staging a sit-in in central Ulan Bator. (Reuter reports) Ulan Bator's official media described the situation as "chaos" caused by illegal democracy demonstrations, strikes and hunger strikes against communist authorities.

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IF ANYONE CAN, CANON CAN.

**T**ough I prefer to discuss policies rather than personalities, the question of Margaret Thatcher's leadership involves both. Let me state my belief that she is the best prime minister we could have had, and overwhelmingly the best for this parliament and the next.

Yet she is the target of vicious verbal personal abuse. She herself never descends to mud-slinging, criticising policies not people.

Her vision is of a self-reliant British people with generous help to those who cannot help themselves, but without encouraging dependency or a welfare culture.

Only remember the state of the country when she came in! The unions were considered above the law; public-sector management qualified before them; even the dead were unburied. In the private sector, competitiveness was thwarted by union insistence on over-manning. It was widely assumed that nothing could be done. The Labour government had cringed to union bosses, while Tory faint-hearts abounded.

By cajoling, persuading, arguing, and yes, no doubt, sometimes hectoring, Mrs Thatcher prepared and carried through Parliament a carefully-judged series of statutes

giving unions back to their members. In this, she had a majority of the public with her. In spite of some resistance and violence, trade union law reform was both popular and effective, and the private sector was transformed.

And so it was with one liberating policy after another. It was she who drove through the legislation to free us from pay, price, dividend and exchange controls. It was she who drove through the denationalisation programme, the sale of council houses to tenants, the firm monetarist continuity.

Besides tackling the economy, she grappled with some great social issues. She set in hand steps towards the desperately needed raising of standards in the schools. She challenged the lawyers to provide better services to the public, and doctors to provide better access to health care. And remember the Falklands!

Note the strong strand of prin-

ciple throughout her domestic programme — set the people free, whether from controls, union despotism or arbitrary professional rigidities.

There were mistakes. What a pity that having quelled inflation, she allowed the fever, with its accompanying trade deficit, to revive. With hindsight, she should have replaced Nigel Lawson, in spite of his popularity.

The poll tax? Of course it should have been realized that many councils would take the chance both to spend more and to rebuild balances while blaming the Government. Of course the Government's invention of the safety net appalled Conservative councillors and voters without conciliating Labour ones. The new tax was introduced too hastily, without identifying and eliminating irksome stage; ministry calculations were inaccurate.

But the poll tax will force

councils to provide good services economically — as the Audit Commission repeatedly shows can be done — if enough voters are hurt enough to use their votes to throw out loony councils and oblige non-loony but complacent councils to improve.

The Government faces a dilemma. The larger the rebates and subsidies it provides, the fewer voters will be hurt enough to vote out bad councils. Progressiveness conflicts with accountability. The smaller the number of people who have to pay for the loony left — and those non-loony but not efficient enough councils — will carry on being extravagant.

Then there is the international dimension. Mrs Thatcher has become a figure respected across the world. She was the first among Western leaders to recognize and respond to the Gorbachov phenomenon. Who would question that

judgement now? But until his reforms are carried through, I should hardly wish to see a government in Britain permeated by neutralism and CND. She was equally the first to discover and encourage de Klerk's propensity for reform, and proved right in resisting the call for further sanctions against South Africa when reform was in the offing.

As a member of the cabinet which brought Britain into the EC, I support her stand on Europe. We disclaimed political union and a federal Europe. Her vision is of a free society with a minimum of inflation, conflict and controls.

Labour still ominously promises a "partnership with business", as do some Conservatives, whose code-word has now changed from "Diasel" to "Japan". I know as little about Japan as they do, but I do know that in Japan the partnership between government and giant firms and market sectors subordinates Japanese consumers

to vested interests. Few British people want that.

I think that Labour needs a further period of Conservative government under Mrs Thatcher before it will be a conceivable alternative government. Eleven years are not long to reverse the trends of generations. There are worries in many fields: low school

standards, weakened family life, welfare abuse and violent crime are, examples. Moreover, the achievements of the past 11 years will not be maintained without strong, sensible government.

The tasks ahead will call for the same combination of vision, persistence and inner strength to tackle vested interests and entrenched errors which Mrs Thatcher has already displayed, and which no one else could match. I have particular regard for several present and past members of the government with whom I have served. From among them, one or more potential prime ministers will emerge in due course. But for some time to come, for the reasons I have argued above, the country, government and party will continue to need Margaret Thatcher.

*Lord Joseph was Industry Secretary, 1979-81, and Education Secretary, 1981-86.*

# Smell of the deadline, roar of the press

**Bernard Levin,**  
savouring his  
years as a theatre  
critic, joins the  
debate on reviews  
dashed off as  
the curtain falls

as they went, in the provinces whence the familiar cry of management who had flopped in Shaftesbury Avenue. "They loved us in Harrogate!" Some years ago, it became virtually impossible to tour before opening, as it had become prohibitively expensive, particularly for a big play or a musical. Reduced-price previews therefore replaced the tour, and somehow the fact that many playgoers had seen the play before it officially opened lessened the status of the First Night. At about the same time, the social atmosphere of the London theatre changed dramatically, when and because the plays did.

I have lived through several theatrical revolutions, but none was as dramatic as the one ushered in by John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*, from then on, for those who had eyes to see, the old theatre, which had survived into the post-war world, was doomed; there was a beautiful irony in the fact that the first play written jointly by Hugh and Margaret Williams, who represented the past, was produced in 1956, the same year as Osborne's sensation.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

A transparent glass satellite dish, "designed", says *The Independent*, to quell environmental objections to ugly metal and fibreglass versions defacing British buildings, will soon grace the market.

I do hope not. I hardly watch television but have decided to order a Sky receiver purely because I want one of those white dishes on the front of my house. Now that BSB is to market a square variant, I may get one of those, too. These dishes are, to my mind, aesthetically very pleasing: clean, unfussy lines with just a hint of sci-fi about them. Jules Verne meets Frank Lloyd Wright far less obtuse than the gashly iron trusswork with which conventional TV aerials disfigure roof-lines.

Just as our age artificially reproduces fluted pillars (for which there is no longer any structural need) to recall the Regency era, so a future age will very probably place ornamental white dishes in front of buildings designed to recapture our own period. Purists of that age will complain when ignorant people mount these ornaments facing the wrong way: "Not authentic," they will say. "What was the white Elizabethan wall-saucer originally for?" will be a quiz-show question, for by then a small cube on your mantelpiece ("what was the mantelpiece originally for?") will receive any TV signal.

But for the foreseeable future, the dish is here to stay.

These dishes have a second function to perform, beyond receiving Sky. They always point due south. When you have lost your bearings in London all you need do to reorientise yourself is check the nearest Sky dish.

This can be genuinely useful as an aid to navigation, particularly in cities and suburbs. At night you can ignore the stars (orange street lights all but obliterates them anyway) and by day there is no longer any need to try those boy scout tricks with guesses at where the sun might be, behind a uniform grey sky. All you need is to find a dish. Children will no longer be taught by proud fathers how to find the North Star: nor will kids growing up ignorant (as

*The Sunday Times* reports) of whether the earth goes round the sun or vice versa, be at any disadvantage. There will be a new folk wisdom.

*White dish, by day or night: West to left, east to right*

will be what the infants at the convent of St Winnie and St Nelson chant, along with:

*Burglar-alarm, burglar-alarm on the wall.*

*Who is the richest of us all?*

For it is time folk wisdom moved with the folk. We used to hear, for instance, that one should never eat fresh oysters unless there was an *r* in the month. But did you know you should never eat tinned crab unless there are three E numbers on the label?

Each continent can contribute. In Peru, the horrific band of Maoist terrorists called The Shining Path stuff donkeys with dynamite, drive them into crowded markets, and detonate them. This is a means of registering protest at the peasantry's economic woes. As the economy has spiralled out of control and the Peruvian retail price index has recorded inflation at more than 2,000 per cent, popular discontent, and donkey explosions, have increased. Soon, political scientists of the fashionably mindless "catastrophe" school will present us with a new corollation: "As inflation reaches four figures, donkeys start to explode." British experience confirms this. Our inflation is in single figures, and the donkeys here do not explode at all.

Those who prefer to ride in cars know that the world of motoring, too, is developing a folk wisdom to match the age. It is widely appreciated that drivers of Asian Allegros wearing hats invariably drive in the middle of the road at 28 mph and never indicate. Green Datsuns on the hard shoulder of motorways always contain large Asian families. Plastic traffic cones ornamenting any part of any road mean "Nobody working on this stretch". These things, I think, are common knowledge.

Did you know that a Swedish-made car with a "Baby on Board" sticker in the back window always contains an *Independent* reader?

(Margaret Williams said: "We like to see people on the stage looking clean and well-dressed"; also, she said it at the moment when the customers, never mind the cast, had ceased to look either clean or well-dressed, let alone both, and the very idea of plays with smart characters was unthinkable.)

Anyway, the point of all this is that as the nature of the theatre changed, so did that of the theatregoers. First Nights (they really did use both capitals) glittered with the *beau monde* then: Charles Morgan, when he was the theatre critic for this newspaper, wore tails and a topper, and even I, when first a critic, donned a dinner-jacket for significant openings, though very few of my colleagues did.

Once, in the stalls, I overheard a member of the audience declaring that he would never again read the *Evening News* because its critic, Felix Barker, a very jolly fellow and a good friend of mine, had arrived at a First Night not only clad in a jacket that did not match his trousers, but with a rolled-up newspaper sticking out of his pocket. (Many years later, when First Nights had become very down-market occasions, I occasionally wore a dinner jacket to, of all places, the Royal Court, but only to annoy Lindsay Anderson.)

When First Nights were still what they had been, everybody — my dear, everybody — went on to the old Caprice for dinner, and ditched the playwright, the director and everybody in the cast, especially those they had crowded their dressing-rooms at curtain-fall with cries of "Darling, you were wonderful!" True, it was not all roses. Noel Coward once told me the story of what happened to him after the First Night of a musical of his called *Pacific 1860*: this was the first show to be put on at Drury Lane after the war, during which it had been dark (in theatrical parlance, "dark" only means closed), and Coward was the obvious choice for the reopening of the oldest and most splendid of London's playhouses.

Unfortunately, on this occasion the Master had lost his touch rather comprehensively, and when he emerged from the stage door, he found something uncomfortably like a lynch mob outside, the like that stuck in my mind, as well it might, was that the cleaners to whom he sent his dinner jacket found that all their skill was unavailing, so spilt upon had it been. When the show closed, it was followed by *Oklahoma!* which ushered in the years of the great American musicals; not long after, at the Coliseum, I was madly in love with Dolores Gray, in *Annie Get Your Gun*, and I still am. I don't reckon much to Lloyd Webber.

I am just too young for the days

when the playwright, as well as the players, took a bow after the curtain fell, but I certainly remember booing. It died out when galleries did — it survives, oddly, only at the opera — and I remember the gallery well, from long before I became a journalist, let alone a critic. You would put down a curious wooden stool outside the gallery entrance, a cheat-proof form of queuing, because your stool had a number stuck to it. The most uncomfortable gallery seats were those at Covent Garden; the runner-up was the New, which is now the Albery. There was a Gallery First-Nighters Club, but the president of it invariably sat in the stalls.

**G**radually, the insurgents conquered; gradually, therefore, the romance of the First Night faded and died. By then I had been a critic for some years, and some memorably hairy evenings had etched themselves on my soul. I recall very clearly indeed one of the very hairiest, not so much because it was bad (though in fact it was terrible), but because of its sequel; I have written about the play elsewhere, but never, I think, about what happened afterwards.

The star, now dead (*de mortuis...*) was returning to the legitimate stage after some years on the musical one. Understandably nervous about this debut, he had, before curtain-up, fortified himself with, I guessed, at least a bottle of the hard stuff, almost certainly not diluted with soda. He managed to get through Act One, though somewhat unsteady on his pins and more than somewhat slurred in speech, but shortly after the curtain rose on Act Two, he subsided gently to the floor, and did not rise again. After a strained pause, the curtain fell, and a member of the management came before it to announce that the unfortunate actor had been taken ill, and the remainder of the performance was cancelled. Rejoicing in the thought of an early night, I left. I was just getting into the taxi when I recalled that Philip Hope-Wallace, then the critic of *The Guardian*, had fled the theatre at the interval, maintaining that he had seen quite enough on which to review it.

Now Philip also was a good friend, and one of the funniest and most interesting men alive; that *plus noblesse oblige*, meant that I could not possibly let him walk into catastrophe. I nipped into a call box (this was so long ago that

they worked) and rang the paper, asking to be put through to Mr Hope-Wallace. To my horror, the operator refused to comply; no, I could not speak to Mr Hope-Wallace, who never took calls when he was writing his notice. But Mr Hope-Wallace would want, I said, to be interrupted with the news I brought; nay, he needed to hear it for his own sake. No dice. I began to scream, rant and swear, and finally Mr Cerberus-Jobsworth put me through to an understandably lecherous Philip, who rapidly became much less lecherous; it was the only time I have ever heard a man go white.

There was a similar case, this one concerning an actor who had been in America for many years, in films, and was therefore similarly making a second debut on the London stage. The play was set at Christmas time, and again, it was clear from Act One that the star had been gadding before curtain-up. He, too, got through the first half; when the curtain went up on Act Two, however, the play called for him to be fixing the lights on the Christmas tree, and he was therefore, reasonably enough, prone on the carpet, understood to be fiddling with the socket and plug. But what we actually saw as the curtain rose was not the details

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1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## A BLURRED VIEW OF EUROPE

Sandwiched between consultations at Nato and the "two-plus-four" talks in Bonn, another close diplomatic encounter took place at the weekend. The American Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, sat down with the European Community in the first of what are intended to be regular exchanges, aimed at addressing Washington's concern about the "transparency" of the EC. European ministers studied their shoes with enormous care.

America is anxious about US access to all European institutions at a time of rapid change on this side of the Atlantic. Washington's fear is that American troop withdrawals from Europe, brought about by arms agreements or by political pressures inside the United States, will reduce its influence inside Europe and thus in what is once again emerging as one of the most critical theatres of world affairs.

American bureaucrats fret about "avenues of access" to Europe, and especially about their influence in the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which has assumed an importance undreamed of when the Helsinki Final Act was signed in 1975. But they seem more concerned with institutional mechanisms than with substance. The search for an assured place at a particular conference table should not take precedence over clarifying American views as to what such tables are all about.

Last Friday, President Bush produced a robust restatement of the American commitment to remaining a "European power" (based on Nato), but did not find words to define quite what American engagement is designed to do. Perhaps the President thought that it might seem condescending to prescribe in detail to the new Europe, and so relied on general goals: peace and prosperity and the achievement of a Europe "whole and free". This Administration has foreseen the pendulum swing of the past when Washington would enthusiastically promote European unity and independence, and then turn furious when Europe acted for itself. But what does Mr Bush really mean?

America's post-war strategy supported an open international economy, and subsidized a network of alliances to hold in check the two powers liable to dominate Europe: Germany and the Soviet Union. That strategy of double containment was an unqualified success,

securing peace and unprecedented global economic growth. Now America wants to remain a European power, said Mr Bush, "in the broadest sense, politically, militarily and economically". But each of these three senses must be examined in turn.

As the Cold War divisions of Europe come down, there will be a mass of political negotiation to undertake. The members of the CSCE can mediate small disputes, verify arms agreements, and build on its reputation as a shop window for democracy. That is no mean agenda. The CSCE could become Europe's political Acas, defusing inter-ethnic and frontier disputes in Eastern Europe before they become seriously destabilizing. Arms control verification is a growth industry. As a forum East Europeans respect for making political rights a pan-European issue, the CSCE is well placed to offer practical help in consolidating democratic institutions.

Such confidence-building, however important, will begin before military forces have shrunk. The CSCE's work is therefore distinct from the relationships between military powers. A period of relaxation following years of armed confrontation does not eliminate mistrust and competition between states. New forms of containment will be needed. Nato remains the only club linking states with shared aims capable – because, unlike the Western European Union, it includes the US – of deterring potential trouble-makers.

On the economic front, the European Community has to guard against insularity – even if early membership for East European countries is unrealistic. It must look West as well as East for all the rhetoric of recent weeks, the EC remains primarily an economic organization, and would be acting wholly irresponsibly to concentrate on political union while letting transatlantic economic and trade disputes get out of control. American bashing on the door should keep the Commission alert to that duty.

Talk about building motorways to the European institutions of the future has become fashionable in the American State Department. Its thinkers should now concentrate on drawing a road map which distinguishes between functions. Their avenues of access will otherwise end up looking like that British muddle, Spaghetti Junction.

## DRINK AND THE FOOTBALL DEVIL

The football league season ended on Saturday with a bang followed by a long whimper. Bournemouth, Birmingham, Chesterfield, Halifax, Sheffield, Cambridge, Aldershot . . . the rolicking reads like battles of the Civil War, an analogy which is regrettably all too apposite. Football hooliganism breaks out all over Britain, in county towns as well as inner cities. It affects all four divisions of the league, takes place inside as well as outside grounds (though discipline on the terraces has improved) and does so regardless of the number present.

The weekend's violence has at least reinvigorated the argument for preventative action. The mayhem inflicted on Bournemouth, the worst hit, has been blamed on a number of special factors. Hundreds travelled from Leeds despite having no tickets for the match; tempers flared in the hot weather; the result was exceptionally important for both teams playing; and it was a bank holiday weekend. The Football League's alleged failure to switch the date, despite an appeal from police, again calls into question the calibre of soccer's administration.

But there is one factor common to every disturbance this weekend, and to all previous incidents, including the Hillsborough tragedy: the heavy consumption of alcohol by some fans. They drink in pubs before the kick-off or buy packs of beer from off-licences on the way. By the time they get near the ground, they are mostly drunk. In contrast to other narcotics and intoxicants, this makes them noisy, boisterous and spoiling for a fight.

There is no easy way of preventing them from buying alcohol. British Rail can stop selling it on football trains; fans then make a beeline for the pubs on arrival. Clubs can ban the sale of it in the grounds: they can still arrive drunk. Pubs may be closed for two hours

before each match: hooligans will simply buy it wholesale from off-licences. Where the will exists, they will always find a way.

What is extraordinary is how often none of these sensible precautionary measures is employed. The reason remains the astonishing indulgence of the alcohol industry by central government and local councils and magistrates. From the permitting of alcohol advertising to teenagers to the leniency shown towards drunken drivers, the Home Office remains in thrall to the drink lobby – to the horror of police who must cope every night with the consequences.

Much can be done to make the acquisition of alcohol sufficiently hard to reduce the opportunity for drunkenness on the way to matches. Publicans must be penalised by losing their licences for keeping disorderly houses and serving those who are clearly inebriated. Pubs and off-licences should be closed on the day (or part of it) when the local team is playing at home.

This might seem hard on publicans and law-abiding residents and might be difficult to administer in, say, London where fans could obviously drink in neighbouring boroughs. But residents sick of being vandalized by football thugs might think it worth attempting for the sake of quieter weekends.

While the football authorities will doubtless take the lion's share of brickbats for Saturday's events, the rest of the community cannot blame them entirely. If ministers and magistrates continue to encourage young people to get drunk, on the grounds that this is a free society and young people have always been boisterous, they cannot complain when they wreck Britain's towns and besmirch its reputation abroad.

## THE IRON CURTAIN

An electronic curtain has descended on the capital. Shortly after midnight on Saturday, British Telecom changed its dialling codes for London. The green line between 071 and 081 has now been fixed on a radius five miles from Charing Cross – dividing families, splitting streets, and setting homeowner against homeowner.

BT insists that the change was necessary because it had run out of digit combinations. There is no reason to doubt that contention. In losing its uniform code, London is merely following such large capital cities as New York and Paris. The lines are bursting only over whether BT has gone the most sensible way about it.

Estate agents have estimated that the difference in value between houses in the "inner" 071 ring and those cast into the outer darkness of 081 could be about £2000. They may be right – distinctions already exist between postal districts – but the point might have passed unnoticed had it not been drummed home by BT's television advertisements, cunningly playing on a class distinction between "central London" and the "inner city".

Displaying a remarkable faith in the human memory, BT began warning people some 12 months ago. It complains that industry was slow to order new stationery and alert customers, but most users must now be aware that something dramatic has happened to the telephones, and how it affects their own numbers. The trouble starts with dialling the prefix for the outer area.

Most subscribers (in London anyway) should have no trouble in identifying Whitehall as Central London – thus qualifying for half as Central London – thus qualifying for the coveted 071 – or placing Sutton in

suburban 081. Between such extremes, however, few Londoners (and still fewer who live elsewhere) have a clear idea of where to draw the line. They will object to learning the right prefix as strongly as do children to memorizing the gender of French nouns.

The public have not been slow to advance their own ideas on how BT could have made matters simpler. Why not, say some, make the Thames the natural boundary since at least it is well-known and usually visible. Others put the case for East versus West, with a median North-South line through Ludgate Circus. A third, more intriguing, popular "solution" has been to split the area codes numerically, allotting 071 to all codes below 600 and 081 to those above, or dividing them by odd/even digits.

On inspection, all these ideas are more flawed than BT's. The 081 Greater London zone is predominantly residential. The great virtue of the system adopted is that it keeps the centre of the capital, with government, commerce and millions of residents in one, seven-digit, piece. This patent sanity should override all other protests. The only mystery is why BT could not have inflicted less pain, and certainly less cost, by simply leaving central London with its old 01 code, with a three-digit prefix for the outer area.

BT has spent around £30 million advertising the new system. Even so, its automatic voices will be over-worked informing callers (free of charge) of their dialling errors when Britons return to work tomorrow. Companies will cheerfully blame BT for failures to return calls. To greet change as an economic and social disaster is characteristically British. In its efforts to equip London for the future, BT deserves more sympathy than it has received.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Change-over for London's codes

From Mr Eric Thompson

Sir, The gloomy analysis (Science and Technology, May 3) of British Telecom's change-over of the London dialling codes will almost certainly be further confused by BT's seeming inability to decide how many telephone exchanges are to be involved.

My telephone directory, dated June 1989, initially listed 656 exchanges requiring either the 071 or 081 prefixes. The undated leaflet, "Remember the London Code", was issued a little later. I think, and it was soon followed by a similar official publication entitled "Are you Ready?". The number of exchanges concerned were 755 and 759 respectively.

The BT advertisement in the latest issue of *Radio Times* – for the week during which the change-over actually takes place – included a detachable, wallet-sized card which pushes the above totals up to 764 exchanges, 357 using 071 and 407 requiring the 081 prefix.

Yours truly,

PATRICIA PERRY,  
Long Meadow, Church Street,  
Charbury, Oxfordshire.

From Dr W. G. Johns

Sir, It is the Judeo-Christian tradition that we have a perfect right to desecrate the biosphere at will for our own material gain which is partly responsible for the appalling, escalating damage to the environment.

The Minister of Agriculture should not be encouraging increased meat consumption. Creation of pastureland for meat production is a major cause of world-wide forest destruction.

Humans can live very well on either no meat or a small fraction of meat in their diet.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT W. G. JOHNS,  
The Hollies, Elford Heath,  
Eccleshall, Staffordshire.

From Ms Jenny Deeprose

Sir, Agriculture Minister John Gummer cites his biblical knowledge to label vegetarianism as "wholly unnatural". Daniel (later to face the lions), while serving the King of Babylon, refused to eat meat and drink from the king's table. He asked instead:

Please test your servants for ten days. Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance . . .

At the end of ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food . . . To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of history and learning . . . Daniel 1: vv.17-17 (New International version).

One hopes that John Gummer and his fellow ministers at least eat up all their greens.

Yours faithfully,  
JENNY DEEPROSE  
(Assistant Editor),  
*Frozen and Chilled Foods*,  
Questaway House,  
Redhill, Surrey.

From Mrs Margaret Fidler

Sir, The 19th-century historian, W. E. H. Lecky, showed how our circle of protection must increase with civilisation. From concern only with members of his own

As the combined membership of those two institutions well exceeds two million, backed up by high-powered marketing and first-class public relations, the private sector finds itself pushed into seeking alternative ways to attract the public. Miniature railways, adventure playgrounds, children's farmyards and collections of all sorts have proliferated around some of our greatest buildings.

The question must be asked, "How many of the next generation will be prepared to move, with their families, to live among the sideshows?" Not many, I fear, and fewer still of Mr Ridley's new entrepreneurs. Will the Government be willing to afford the consequences?

Yours sincerely,  
MARK ROPER,  
Forde Abbey,  
Chard, Somerset.

### Katyn memorial

From Mr Louis Fitzgerald

Sir, Prebendary Loachy (May 1) seeks to justify the Church's refusal to allow the Katyn memorial in St Luke's Gardens, Chelsea, on grounds of unsuitability. He ignores the fundamental fact that the royal borough, and not the Church, was the planning authority; its permission was gladly given.

The real objection was the date, 1940, for the inscription, rather than "in the early years of the war" (an obvious attempt to include 1941, the year then used by the Soviets for their accusation against the Germans).

Yours sincerely,  
LOUIS FITZGIBBON (Hon Secretary, Katyn Memorial Fund,  
1971-76),  
8 Portland Place,  
London, NW1.

### Birmingham Six

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, You report (April 25, early editions) the Lord Chancellor as defending the Lord Chief Justice and his Appeal Court colleagues against my criticism of their findings in the case of the Birmingham Six. "Perhaps those most vociferous in their criticism of the judiciary", you quote Lord Mackay as saying, "should look more closely at the dangers inherent in urging judges to decide not on the facts presented to them but on a reflection of public opinion".

As one of the most vociferous of the critics, I have to say that this is a travesty of my expressed views.

The original trial jury convicted the Six on two grounds, of which the first was that traces of nitroglycerine had been found on the hands of two of them. The presiding judge (now Lord Bridge of Harwich) called this "absolutely

### Holding Mr Gummer to account

From Mrs Patricia Perry

Sir, As a vegetarian for nearly 50 years I regret Mr John Gummer's "tooth and claw" attack on vegetarianism (report, May 2). He may have intended only to please the butchers – and of course they applauded his remarks; but he has in fact reached a far wider audience of vegetarians (especially the increasing number of young vegetarians), semi-vegetarians, organic farmers and gardeners, and all those who, in supporting a radical life-style, tend towards a vegetarian diet – in other words, the supporters of the green revolution.

His comments are unlikely to attract the green vote.

I think he should realise that it is green consciousness that stimulates rejection of meat-eating and interest in vegetarian and organic foods, not the Vegetarian Society's videos in schools. These videos respond to demand; they do not create it.

Yours truly,

PATRICIA PERRY,  
Long Meadow, Church Street,  
Charbury, Oxfordshire.

From Mr G. W. Rosenthal

Sir, If Mr Gummer does not feel

that he can serve the "faddists"

who want to eat the food of their

(not his) choice, should he not

consider whether he is following

the environment?

Yours sincerely,

MARGARET FIDLER,  
23 Bitterne Way,  
Lymington, Hampshire.

From Mr J. Wynne-Tyson

Sir, It is the great biologist

T. H. Huxley, published his table of comparative anatomy, confirming *Homo sapiens*'s physiological similarity to his fellow-frugivore the anthropoid ape, who, like us, has a single stomach with a duodenum. The carnivora, the omnivore, and the herbivore are dissimilar in every important respect from the ape and man.

Mr Gummer apparently considers that Huxley got it wrong. May we be made privy to his scientific justification for declaring vegetarianism to be "wholly unnatural" practice, for asserting that we are omnivores other than through habit, and for turning the innocent cow into a massive red herring?

Yours faithfully,

JON WYNNE-TYSON,  
Paddocks, Fontwell,  
Arundel, West Sussex.

From Mrs Brenda Bowering

Sir, "Having dominion" over

every living thing does not mean

chopping it up and shoving it in a

frying pan . . . not according to

God's plan, anyway.

Sadly, Mr Gummer is suffering

from that most deadly of bovine

diseases – foot in the mouth.

Yours faithfully,

BRENDA BOWERING,  
25 Barrington Road,  
Horsham, West Sussex.

From Mrs E. J. Aydon

Sir, According to St Paul, in

Roman chapter 14, carnivorous

Christians should not criticise one

another. So, how about that, Mr Gummer?

Yours truly faithfully,

ELIZABETH AYDON,  
2 Daniel Road,  
Whitchurch, Hampshire.



## COURT CIRCULAR

**KENSINGTON PALACE** May 5: The Duke of Gloucester this evening attended Reception on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society at the University Combination Room, Cambridge.

Major Nicholas Barnes was in attendance.

**May 6:** The Prince of Wales, Patron, British Institute of Floriculture, opened an exhibition of his watercolour sketches, in aid of the Institute, at the birthplace

### Birthdays today

Mr Scobie Brassey, jockey, 75; Lord Brabourne, 69; Mr Peter Carey, author, 47; Victoria Cross, Sir Charles Cunningham, civil servant, 84; Sir Regis Geddes, former chairman, Dunlop Rubber Company, 78; Mrs Kitty Godfree, tennis player, 94; Professor R.Y. Gooden, architect, 81; Sir James Gowans, former deputy chairman, Medical Research Council, 66; Mr Robin Hanbury-Tenison, explorer, 54; Mr Michael Hawkes, deputy-chairman, Kleinwort Benson group, 61; Sir Lenox Hewitt, Australian industrialist, 73; Mrs Ruth Prater, author, 63; Lord Kirkhill, 60; Mr David Leach, potter, 79; Sir Neil Macfarlane, MP, 54; Sir Basil Nield, former MP and High Court judge, 87; Dr Tony O'Reilly, president, H.J. Heinz Company Incorporated, 54; Mr Richard O'Sullivan, actor, 46; Mr W.M. Pybus, company chairman, 67; Sir Arthur Quelling, diplomat, 76; Miss Elisabeth Soderstrom, soprano, 63; Mr David Tomlinson, actor, 73; Sir Alan Titchmarsh, former Lord Mayor of London, 53; Major-General H.G. Woods, 66.

### City Women's Network

**CWN** — The leading London-based professional women's networking club is holding a new members drinks party on Wednesday, May 30, at 6.30 pm at Methuselah's Wine Bar, 29 Victoria St, SW1. Prospective new members are most welcome and should contact Jenny Hill on 081 787 6009 for further details during office hours.

### Concert at Hatfield House

In aid of the Museum of Garden History, Monday, June 4, given by the Choir of the College of William and Mary to be attended by HE The American Ambassador. Tickets £35 including supper. Gardens and House open. Details and tickets tel: 0707 60228.

### Forthcoming marriages

**Mr A.J. Eddieston and Miss J.F. Jennings** The engagement is announced between Andrew John Eddieston, of Bath, and Joanne Jennings, younger daughter of Sir Robert and Lady Jennings, of Grantchester, Cambridge.

**Mr J.A. Keay and Miss V.C. Mitchell** The engagement is announced between James Andrew, son of Mr Peter Keay and Mrs Christopher Keay, of Hillhead, Hampshire.

### Marriages

**Mr R. Arkle and Miss F. Campbell** The wedding took place quietly in London, on May 5, 1990, of Mr Robert Arkle and Miss Frances Campbell.

**The Hon A.J. Aymer and Miss R.E. Parker**

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary's, Charlbury, of the Hon Anthony Julian Aymer, only son of Lord and Lady Aymer, of 42 Brampton Grove, NW4, to Miss Belinda Rosemary Parker, only daughter of Major and Mrs Peter Parker, of The Hays, Ramsey, Oxford. The Rev M. G. Cowdrey officiated, assisted by the Rev A. Johnson and the Rev A. Bent.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and Mr Patrick Aymer was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride's parents and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

**Mr T.D. Bonham Carter and Miss V.C.E. Sharp**

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Bardfield, Essex, of Mr Thomas David Bonham Carter, younger son of the Hon Raymond and Mrs Bonham Carter, of West Heath Avenue, NW11, to Miss Victoria Sharp, of Elizabeth Street, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Sharp, of Brook House, Great Bardfield. The Rev N. Cliff and the Rev Dr G. Huddin officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Felicity Bailey-West, Laura Service, Roger Berkeley, Sophie Matthews, Charles Ruggles-Brise, William Sims, Miss Victoria Sharp and Miss Helene Bonham Carter. Mr James Eddie was best man.

A reception was held at Spains Hall, Finchampstead, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

**Dr P.J.E. Jennings and Miss E.A. Mole**

The marriage took place on Saturday, May 5, at the Friary, South Ascot, of Dr Piers Jennings, fourth son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Jennings, of Babington House, Frome, Somerset, and Miss Katherine Mole, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Mole, of Foljeon Cottage, Winkfield, Berkshire. The Bishop of Portsmouth officiated assisted by Father Brian Murphy O'Connor.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and was attended by Madeleine Jennings, Lydia Killerty, Hannah Gibbs, Maia Gibbs and Alexis

## OBITUARIES

## SIR REGINALD GOODALL

*Sir Reginald Goodall, renowned as a conductor of Wagner, died at the age of 88 on May 5. He was born on July 15, 1901.*

**REGINALD Goodall** was a classic case of a late developer. When he conducted the premiere of *Peter Grimes* in 1945, he was already in his 40s; when he really came to prominence with *The Mastersingers* at Sadler's Wells in 1968, he was in his late 60s. This was almost entirely due to his innate modesty about himself and his career, and to his uncompromising attitude towards the rehearsal of any new production, for which he had to be in absolute charge from the training of the singers to the first night.

It is undoubtedly true that he preferred to prepare a performance than actually conduct it; with Wagner, the demands on his stamina over a long evening, and his indifferent eyesight, obviously placed him under strain. The wonder of it was that, in spite of these drawbacks, he was the only post-Knappertschuk conductor wholly to encompass the span of a Wagner act, and for that, above everything, he will be remembered.

Born at Lincoln, he was a chorister at Lincoln Cathedral, then studied piano, violin and conducting at the Royal College of Music with Arthur Benjamin, W.H. Reed and C.H. Kitson respectively. Next he went to Munich and Vienna to study independently, and to hear the great conductors of the 1920s. He also played for Reinhold von Warlich's masterclasses in Lieder. At this time, his love for Bruckner and Wagner was instilled.

Back in England he began to learn his craft with a rehearsal orchestra and conducted a choir at St Albans where he performed Masses of Mozart and Schubert. In the late 1930s he sometimes assisted Albert Coates at Covent Garden and Malcolm Sargent with the Royal Choral Society. During the war he conducted the Wessex Orchestra, comprised of former members of the defunct Bournemouth Philharmonic. After service in the Ordnance Corps, he was engaged by Lawrence Collingwood and Joan Cross as a conductor with the then perambulating Sadler's Wells Opera. He was soon conducting much of the regular repertoire for the company.

Before and after the war Goodall showed a particular affinity with Britten's music. In 1945, he was invited to conduct what turned out to



be one of the most momentous occasions in the history of British opera, the first night of *Peter Grimes* on June 7. The enthusiastic reception the work received owed much to Goodall's scrupulous preparation and adventurous mind. He was keen in making plain what was then an unfamiliar idiom. The following year he shared the first performance of Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* with Ansermet at Glyndebourne, he recorded extracts from the work shortly after its premiere, and he joined Covent Garden's music staff.

His first opera at The Royal Opera House was *Manon*, with Virginia McWatters and Heddle Nash in the cast, produced by Frederick Ashton. More congenial to him were *Wozzeck*, *Die Meistersinger*, *Fidelio* and *Gloriana*, which he conducted in the following seasons. Discerning opera critics and enthusiasts caught his *Walküre* at Croydon with the Covent Garden Opera on tour in 1954. This *Walküre* at Croydon gave the first intimations of how well Goodall understood the breadth needed for interpreting Wagner, also his abilities in persuading singers to pay attention

to line and the meaning of the text. Even then, he never sacrificed the long view for the sake of short term excitement.

But his career began to languish, and was almost extinguished during the Soli years at the Royal Opera House, because his ways did not march with those of high-powered international opera. It was left to Stephen Alten and Edmund Tracey, then at the helm of Sadler's Wells, to bring him out of the shadows for a new production of *The Mastersingers* in 1968. Immediately his deep understanding of Wagner's long paragraphs was discerned: his admiration of Klempener, whom he aided at recording sessions, was at last made manifest, and a complete Ring followed in the early 1970s (later recorded) to almost universal praise, particularly for his sense of the music's architecture. *Parsifal* at Covent Garden in 1971 and, even more, *Tristan and Isolde* with the Welsh National Opera in 1979, were likewise acclaimed, so much so that both were recorded.

Both in his forgotten years and his acclaimed ones, Goodall was noted as a coach. The most distinguished

singers of the days made their way to what was known as "Valhalla". Goodall's little rehearsal room at Covent Garden, where Reggie, as he was known to all, taught the likes of Amy Shuard, Gwyneth Jones, Josephine Veasey, Jon Vickers, James King and Donald McIntyre their craft. He was insistent on long phrasing in Wagner allied to verbal clarity, and those qualities could always be heard in a Goodall performance. Orchestrally, he sought out a specific *Klang*, a warm, homogeneous sound that marked out his interpretations. To gain it, he avoided what he termed "conducteuritis", a dictatorial attitude to his players. He sought their cooperation, and they responded with the texture he wanted. His tempi were sometimes regarded as unduly slow, but were usually related to the concept as a whole.

Goodall loved the Germany repertoire above everything. His whole being was rooted, from his pre-war experiences, in that idiom, and one sometimes felt that he regretted not being born a native German. It was therefore sad that he was never invited to conduct at Bayreuth. The reason may lie in certain quirks of personality. Goodall intensely disliked any display of the kind of personal control or dictatorship on the podium which are perhaps demanded of the most eminent conductors in the profession. He needed long periods of rehearsal with musicians he knew well, and he was consistently critical even of their achievement in pursuit of his own ideal. In brief he could, though amazingly shy, be awkward with anyone whom he deemed below his own high standard of performance. Besides, his beat was notoriously vaguer.

His final appearances, in the theatre, were conducting *Parsifal* at the Coliseum in 1986 and, in the concert hall, the third act of the same opera at the Proms in 1987. These showed that he had lost little or none of his ability to control a large Wagnerian paragraph or shape an entire act, features of his conducting that will always remain in the memory of those who were lucky enough to have caught any of his readings. Fittingly enough, he managed — only last month — to attend a Covent Garden performance of *Die Meistersinger*, the work with which he made that start to his wonderful Indian Summer in the opera house.

He was appointed CBE in 1975 and knighted in 1985.

## JOSHUA PRAWER

*Professor Joshua Prawer, one of Israel's leading academics and an authority on the Crusades, died in Jerusalem on April 30 at the age of 72.*

**JOSHUA Prawer** contributed much to the development of university life and reached a much wider public internationally, not least through his publications on the Crusaders and learned insights into their world. Born in Bendin, Poland, Prawer emigrated to Palestine in 1936 and read history in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Under the influence of Professor Richard Körber who held at that time the Chair of Medieval History in Jerusalem he became interested in the history of the Crusades and wrote his PhD thesis on that subject. In 1958 he was nominated to the Chair of Medieval History in Jerusalem in recognition of his outstanding scholarly work on the history of the Crusaders' Kingdom of Jerusalem, and he became known after then as one of the foremost authorities on this subject both in Israel and abroad.

His success in his chosen field of study could be measured by the impressive number of his scholarly publications and by the many academic decorations and distinctions he was awarded. As much as he enjoyed this outward sign of recognition Prawer saw the exceptional popularity of his work among very different and numerous social groups as a conclusive vindication of his belief in the vocation of the historian as educationalist, whose audience extends far outside the lecture hall and comprises the nation at large. He was an indefatigable lecturer and organiser of popular excursions to crusaders' sites and maintained his round of duties right up to his last year.

Public service was one of the dominant traits in his character. The number of the educational projects and establishments he was responsible for creating or for running was astonishing. They ranged from several fundamental reforms of the educational system in Israel accomplished within the framework of the Ministry of Education, with which he was associated as an academic, to the formation of some of the main characteristics of the Faculty of Humanities at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem: he served as Dean of the Faculty during its formative period in the 1960s.

He was the leading figure in the foundation of the University of Haifa and was editor-in-chief for the successful completion of the *Israel Encyclopedia*. And he successfully handled relations with foreign academic and political institutions and authorities on behalf of the various institutions with which he was associated.

His many students, colleagues and friends will miss Joshua Prawer the man. He was energetic, sometimes impatient with obstacles and intolerant when thwarted but never vindictive, with much charm and social grace. He was generous to a fault with colleagues and friends.

## SIR JAMES ROBERTSON

*Sir James Robertson, Chief Constable of Glasgow during the 1960s, died on May 3, aged 84. He was born on April 8, 1906.*

**JAMES Robertson** stood for the best of the old traditions of the British police. Largely self-educated, he developed into one of the ablest of police administrators, always conscious that a police force is only as good as the character of the individuals in it. A strong religious faith underlay his every action.

The son of a police sergeant, he left school at 14 and worked as a railway clerk before joining the police, where his talents were noted early. As a young constable he successfully studied for a law degree. His organisational

skills were fully tested when he took charge of civil defence in Glasgow during the war, earning an MBE for this work in 1942.

When he was appointed Chief Constable in 1960, Glasgow was in a state of transformation. The old tenements were being pulled down and the residents being decented into suburban housing estates like Easterhouse, one of the largest housing developments in the world. Robertson was clear that the police had a positive role to play in preventing crime from developing in this period of disruption of old social patterns. He involved himself, and the force, in the Easterhouse Youth Project.

His strategy to deal with street gangs was to set up what were known as the "untouchable squads" — groups of constables from the local divisions who were deployed in plain clothes to deal swiftly with disturbances without unnecessary aggravation of the situation.

He was knighted in 1968 and retired in 1971, handing over to Sir David McNeice (the future Commissioner of Metropolitan Police). In retirement Robertson's voluntary work included the chairmanship of the Glasgow Standing Conference of Voluntary Youth Organisations and the honorary presidency of the Boys' Brigade.

He married in 1942 Janet Macfarlane. They had two sons and a daughter.

## MICHAEL SHAWN

*Michael Shawn, the director and choreographer, has died aged 45 of complications from AIDS at St Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in Manhattan.*

**MICHAEL Shawn** learned that he was infected with the AIDS virus in late 1987, shortly before he became the choreographer for the 1988 Broadway musical *Lies Diamond*. He was dismissed from the show and sued the producers for US\$2.75 million in 1989, charging that he had been discriminated against because of AIDS. The case was settled out of court earlier this year when, according to sources close to the choreographer, he received a substantial payment from the defendants.

Shawn was born in Springfield, Illinois, and began studying dance when he was six years of age. He first appeared on Broadway in the musical *Golden Rainbow* and later danced in *Promises Promises* and *Golden Boy*. He then decided he wanted to be a director and choreographer.

In his 27-year career, his Broadway credits as a choreographer included *Oh Brother* and *Onward Victoria*. Off-Broadway he staged *Operations* at the Circle Repertory Theater and Peter Link's *The River* at the Promenade Theater. In the last year of his life, Shawn choreographed a production of *My Fair Lady* for a tour in Japan and another musical, *Deutschland Lied*, which appeared in Germany.

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When the opinions of even a diocesan bishop are of little interest to the public (unless they happen to smack of heresy or politics), the Archbishop of Canterbury is really the only Christian voice which people are willing, and expect, to hear. For that voice to be withdrawn from the national stage could leave us disturbingly short of Christian confidence and confidence.

Third, the Archbishop of Canterbury presides over the world-wide Anglican Communion which has some 65 million members. The last Lambeth Conference clearly demonstrated that the Archbishop is the one element that can hold this diverse federation together and give it a sense of identity and shared history. Visits to various parts of the Communion in turn can take two months of each year. They can be moving and rewarding. But they are often made grueling and exhausting by constant travel, punishing climates and local conditions.

These may be sensible developments. But what is not excusable is the immense and unrelenting pressure of work that a man as scrupulously conscientious as Dr Runcie has felt himself bound to shoulder. Frankly, another man of his age, but not blessed with his admirable constitution, might not have survived.

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# Instant bad karma by the Mersey

**Michael Gray went to Liverpool for Saturday's John Lennon Tribute Concert, but the event was a musical disaster, out of tune with his memory**

In only five years, the music industry has transformed the rock-stars-for-charity mega-event from Bob Geldof's coherent effort to avert real tragedy to this self-serving, shifty enterprise by television marketing men. Liverpool City Council, Yoko Ono, the nebulous charity the Spirit Foundation, and an ill-assorted roster of artists, some of whom may even have been sincere. Poor Liverpool. Poor John Lennon. This tacky ragtag of a concert was surely the nadir of the "Live Aid" idea.

There had been hints in advance that all would not be well. The original Press pack — by Rogers & Cowan International — offered no information on the charity that was, supposedly, the event's *raison d'être*. Asked for details, they took a fortnight to offer three vague paragraphs and no financial breakdown. Nor was it announced very far in advance that some artists billed would appear only on video — minor names such as Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Ray Charles and Dave Stewart. Nor was any explanation offered for the non-appearance in any form of further acts such as Level 42, B.B. King and Herbie Hancock.

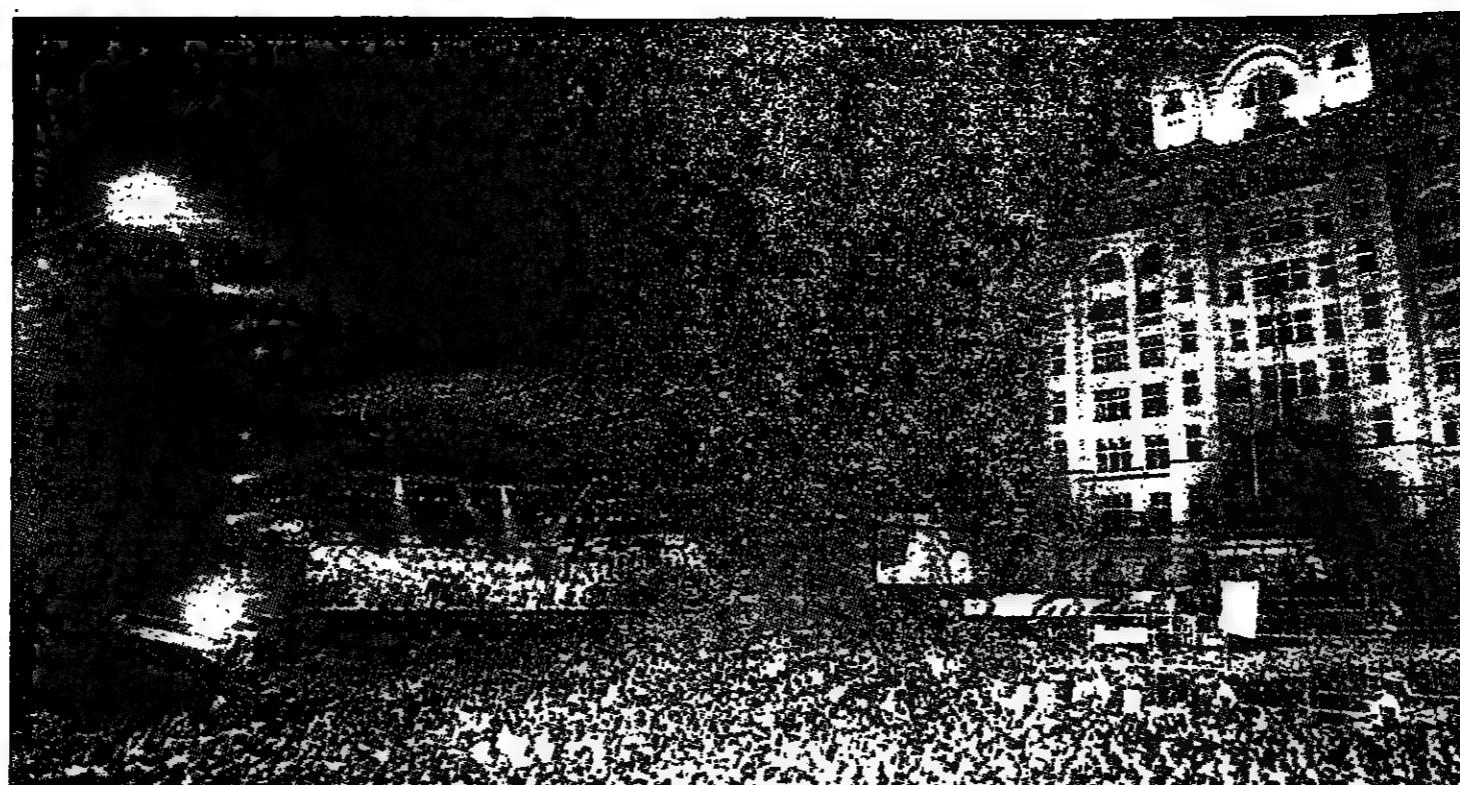
What was made clear all along was the keenness of Liverpool city council to exploit Lennon's name. "A tribute to the genius of John Lennon could only be held in Liverpool, his birthplace and the city which cradled his unique talent... Liverpool's gain is New

York and Los Angeles's loss." In other words, only Liverpool was desperate enough to make such a shoddy opportunity. The city that cradled Lennon's talent is the city that bulldozed the Cavern and has had to build a replica in its Jorvik-style Beatles Museum; the city that cradles Lennon's talent is the one the Beatles moved out of at the earliest possible opportunity, and to which Lennon never returned.

There is always something unpalatable about a city council trying to pretend that its heart beats as one with some *enfant terrible* whom time has tamed; but to witness Yoko Ono and Liverpool's city fathers jump into bed together in the name of peace, harmony, love, John Lennon's genius and the greasing of the planet was unusually repulsive.

Cities suffering decline and deprivation often make up absurd myths about themselves, and Liverpool has been prominent among these. We are used to this most violently aggressive place boasting of its heart of gold; to its peculiar brand of whingeing being special-pleaded as a unique sense of humour; to its bottomless capacity for sentimentalizing itself while claiming a special northern toughness of mind. But not even "Tarby", Cilla or Derek Hattoon could wade through Liverpool's litter-strewn, decrepit streets and call the place cleaned-up.

What had been done for this desperately weird concert? They knocked down the pierhead bus-



Extras in a global television event? The scene at Liverpool's Pierhead on Saturday night, with the stage on the left.

stops to make room for the crowd, built a huge, temporary-looking stage and laid on a water-supply "because of the heat," as the council's event co-ordinator explained, "to enable the staff to hose down the crowd." In the freezing-cold event, being hosed down was about the only indignity the crowd avoided.

It soon became clear that far from having to pay £25 per ticket (as a result, sales were low), it is amazing how much bigger the crowd looked on TV than in real life; those who did attend should have been paid as extras for what was essentially a global-television exercise.

The bizarrely disparate co-hosts of this simulation of a live concert were Mike Read, the Radio 1 DJ and Christopher Reeve, star of the *Superman* films.

Read told the audience that they had to pretend to really be there: "...so we'll have an act on, give a big cheer, then we'll give it a bit of bunny while they fix the wires and then we'll have another big cheer so we get a nice edit for TV. But since you're all working for us tonight, that's great." Then Al Green sang "All You Need Is Love" and then Christopher Reeve came on to clear up the puzzle of why he was there: they wanted an American to pacify the

American TV audience. Thus was the Liverpool crowd given the tone of what lay ahead — phoneyness on the one hand while on the other the gruesome, moribund format of playing video inserts before each performer came on, with this mush-mash of rockers and soul singers and pop stars intoning to the camera most sincerely on how John Lennon had inspired their whole lives.

As it was, the sheer mediocrity of it all was nearly as bad as the best. Kylie Minogue singing "Help" was not the worst of it; nor, I suppose was Dave Edmunds; nor Natalie Cole — the Patti LaBelle of the event —

bellowing "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds"; nor even Lou Gramm singing the awful "Eight Days a Week"; nor Ray Charles paying tribute to Lennon by singing McCartney's "Let It Be". The worst was probably the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra doing "I Am the Walrus". Imagine what Lennon would have thought of that.

If he had still been alive, I am perfectly certain that, like George Harrison, he would have had the instinct and taste to stay away. And if he had watched it on television and heard his songs sounding so bland and boring, he might have felt like killing himself.

WAY OUT THERE IN THE BLUE, RIDING ON A SMILE AND A SHOESHINE, FINDING THERE IS NO ROCK-BOTTOM TO LIFE, WILLY LOMAN IS THE PERPETUALLY TRAVELLING SALESMAN, WHO OUTRANKS EVEN JAMES TYRONE IN THE GALLERY OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE'S GREATEST TRAGIC HEROES. DUSTIN HOFFMAN WORKED BACKSTAGE ON ONE OF THE FIRST REVIVALS OF ARTHUR MILLER'S MASTERPIECE BACK IN THE 1950S; 30 YEARS LATER, HIS PORTRAYAL OF LOMAN ON BROADWAY ESTABLISHED *DEATH OF A SALESMAN* AS THE AMERICAN DRAMA OF THE CENTURY AND ON SATURDAY THAT PERFORMANCE CAME TO BBC 2 WITH KATE REID AS LINDA AND JOHN MAJKOVICH AS BIFF, IN A SUPERB TELEVISION ADAPTATION BY VOLKER SCHLÖNDORFF.

WHILE WE SMUGLY AND SOMETIMES EVEN RIGHTLY TELL OURSELVES THAT IN CONTRAST TO THE WEST END, BROADWAY IS A DERELICT BUILDING-SITE BEREFT OF MAJOR PLAYWRIGHTS, IT IS AS WELL TO REMEMBER THAT THE BRITISH THEATRE IN THIS CENTURY HAS NEVER MANAGED TO COME UP WITH ANYTHING QUITE SO EMOTIONALLY OR DOMESTICALLY POWERFUL AS *DEATH OF A SALESMAN*: THE MAN WHO PACKS HIS CASE OF SAMPLES IN THE BOAT AND HEADS OFF INTO THE TERRITORY BECOMES IN THE END A DRIVER TO HIS OWN SCRAPHEAP, HIS AMERICAN DREAM TURNED INTO A NIGHTMARE.

ACROSS THE PLAY WE GET THE LIFETIME OF WILLY, AND FROM THE VERY BEGINNING WE ARE WAITING FOR HIM TO DIE, ONLY THEN TO REALIZE IN THE WORDS OF A NEIGHBOUR THAT ATTENTION MUST BE PAID. WITH THAT DEATH, HIS WIDOW CAN ONLY NOTE THAT THE FINAL PAYMENT HAS THIS DAY BEEN MADE ON THE HOUSE. BUT A SALESMAN HAS GOT TO DREAM, BOY, IT GOES WITH THE TERRITORY, AND HOFFMAN QUITE BRILLIANTLY CAUGHT THE MIX OF BRAVADO AND DISILLUSION WHICH IS LOMAN AND WHICH EXPLAINS THE DRAMA'S ENDURING SUPREMACY.

THE OTHER ARTHUR MILLER, A PROFESSOR AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, HAS LAUNCHED A NEW SERIES OF *HYPOTHETICALS*, STUDIO DEBATES PIONEERED BY GRANADA BUT NOW PRODUCED BY THEM FOR THE BBC, IN A RARE CHANNEL CROSS-OVER PRESUMABLY INSPIRED BY THE PROMISE OF BETTER NETWORKING ON BBC 2. LAST NIGHT'S WAS ABOUT PRIVACY AND THE PRESS, TOMORROW'S WILL BE ABOUT GOVERNMENT LEAKS, AND I SHALL REPORT THEM BOTH FOR WEDNESDAY.

FOLLOWING THAT, ON ONE OF ITS STRONGER NIGHTS, BBC 2 ALSO LAUNCHED A NEW FILM DRAMA SERIES, BUILT AROUND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. THE GREAT POLISH DIRECTOR KRZYSIEK KIELIAKOWSKI IS TELLING 10 DOMESTIC MORALITY TALES, SET IN A CONTEMPORARY WARSAW BLOCK OF FLATS, ASKING US TO GUESS WHICH ONE RELATES TO WHICH SPECIFIC COMMANDMENT. THE FIRST DEALT WITH A COMPUTER-CRAZED CHILD AND HIS SCIENTIFIC FATHER, BUT EVEN THOSE OF US RATHER TOO HAZY ON THE PRECISE DETAILS OF MOSES' INSTRUCTIONS WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE REMEMBERED THE ONE ABOUT NOT LISTENING TO FALSE GODS OR EVEN, PRESUMABLY, SUMMONING THEM TO US ON THE MAGIC SCREEN.

ON ITV, AN EARLY-SUMMER BUT I WOULD GUESS NON-THREATENING RE-PLACEMENT FOR THE *SOUTH BANK SHOW*, CALLED *CELEBRATION*, CAME UP WITH "MANCHESTER: THE SOUND OF THE NORTH". THE TITLE WAS ALL TOO REMINISCENT OF PETER SELLERS'S "BALHAM: GATEWAY TO THE SOUTH" FOR A FILM DESPERATE TO ESTABLISH THAT MANCHESTER IS NOW WHERE IT IS ALL HAPPENING MUSICALLY, JUST AS LIVERPOOL WAS IN THE 1960S.

## Never mind fashion, listen to the bland

### ROCK

Mike Nicholls

Heart  
NEC, Birmingham

WITH the exception of habitués of trendy Manhattan, Americans adore adult-oriented rock (AOR). Bands such as Fleetwood Mac, Journey and Foreigner have been highly successful for years, playing to stadiums full of fans of all ages. Qualification for AOR immortality requires releasing albums of giant, soaring, heart-rending melodies and displaying a standard of professionalism which transcends everyday personal traumas such as broken relationships and months spent in detoxification clinics. Indeed, such problems as these, although not common to all the successful AOR bands, may serve to inspire further masterpieces of *Angst* and tear-jerking guitar solos.

Songs such as "If Looks Could Kill" and "The Night" are as simple and well structured as the set itself, which makes good use of contrast. For example, the epic ballad "These Dreams" is followed by the heavier "Who Do You Run To?". The rather bloated vocalist, Ann, curiously resembles a larger Marie Helvin.

The crowd, without actually going berserk, was on its feet throughout, becoming marginally more enthusiastic when Nancy and the other guitarist interlocked limbs for a spirited rendition of "Crazy". Serious applause was reserved for the 1987 anthem, "Alone", and the curtain closing on their current hit.

Enter Heart, fronted by sisters Ann and Nancy Wilson. Over the past 15 years they have sold 43 million albums and are enjoying the latest of a handful of Top 10 hits in the UK, "All I Want To Do Is Make Love To You". This and the fact that they are able to attract 30,000 fans to concerts in Birmingham indicates Heart have

## Mishima's sailor meets his musical match

### OPERA

Stephen Pettitt

*Das verratene Meer*  
Deutsche Oper, Berlin

THE OBVIOUS QUESTION HAS, OF COURSE, ALREADY BEEN ASKED. WHY HAS THE DETERMINEDLY SOCIALIST HANS WERNER HENZE CHOSEN TO MAKE HIS NEW OPERA, *Das verratene Meer*, FROM A NOVEL BY AN EXTREME RIGHT-WING NATIONALIST?

THE ANSWER IS NOT DIFFICULT. YUKIO MISHIMA'S *The Sailor Who Fell From Grace With The Sea*, WITH ITS SCENES OF SEX AND VOYEURISM, DISILLUSIONMENT AND COLD-BLOODED MURDER, IS PURELY AND SIMPLY RIPE MATERIAL FOR OPERATIC TREATMENT.

IT MAY HAVE NONE OF THE SHARP-EDGED SOCIAL SATIRE OF, SAY, *The English Cat*, OR THE IMPOSING EPIC QUALITIES OF *The Bassarids*. BUT IT IS A COMPELLINGLY TORRID DOMESTIC DRAMA CONCERNING THE PASSIONATE LOVE OF A WOMAN, FUSAKO KURODA, A SEAMAN, RYUJI TSUKAZAKI, HIS LACK OF REAL ENTHUSIASM FOR A NAVAL LIFE, AND THE REACTIONS OF FUSAKO'S ADOLESCENT SON, NOBORU, WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF A SINISTER LITTLE GANG.

HENZE, HIS PRODUCER GOTZ FRIEDRICH, AND HANS-ULRICH TREICHEL, WHO FORGED THE LIBRETTO FROM THE NOVEL, HAVE TOGETHER CREATED THE FORMULA FOR THIS TRANSLATION TO THE OPERA STAGE JUST ABOUT RIGHT. I CAN THINK OF NO OTHER SCORE BY HENZE

WHICH IS MORE CAPTIVATING ON A FIRST ACQUAINTANCE.

ACT I EVOKES BRILLIANTLY, EVEN LURIDLY, THE PHYSICAL ARDOUR OF THE LOVERS AND THE MASTURBATORY TORMENT OF THE EAVESDROPPING SON. HENZE'S RICH SCORING, WITH ITS VAST AND BUSY PERCUSSION DEPARTMENT, IS USED TO GENERATE A FEELING OF FRENETIC NEUROSIS, SO THAT BY THE CLIMAX OF THE ACT WHEN NOBORU'S GANG VIRTUALLY MURDERS A CAT, THE PULSE IS SET RACING BY THE SHEER DENSITY AND DIZZY MOMENTUM OF IT ALL.

FOR ACT II THE MUSIC, AGAIN CAST IN AN ALTERNATING SEQUENCE OF TABLEAUX AND ORCHESTRAL INTERLUDES, MOVES TO A DIFFERENT PSYCHOLOGICAL

PLANE, WHERE THE PACE APPEARS TO SLOW BUT THE INTENSITY — BECAUSE OF THE CONCENTRATION ON THE INNER MOST THOUGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS — ACTUALLY INCREASES. A FEELING OF THE INEVITABILITY OF RYUJI'S DOWNFALL IS SLOWLY ACCUMULATED, UNTIL THE FINAL, ERILY TENSE SCENE, WHERE A MACHINE-LIKE MUSIC, HEAD ABOVE A THROBBING PEDAL NOTE, TAKES OVER.

FRIEDRICH HAS STAGED THE WORK QUITE BRILLIANTLY, WITH STRONG GEOMETRIC SHAPES, AND MAKING FULL USE OF THE DEUTSCHE OPERA'S CONCENTRIC REVOLVING PLATFORMS. HUGE, CURVED SCENES IN GREEN, BLACK, AND, INCREASINGLY AS THE WORK PROGRESSES, RED, HIDE AND REVEAL EACH OTHER, MAKING A STAGE AREA WHICH IS AL-

MOST INFINITELY FLEXIBLE IN DESIGN. THE MOST PROMINENT EMBLEM OF THE PRODUCTION IS WHAT AT FIRST APPEARS TO BE A DISSOLVED CIRCLE OF LIGHT. ITS TWO HALVES INGENIOUSLY COME CLOSER TOGETHER TO FORM THE UNMISTAKABLE SHAPE OF AN EYE: THE PEHPOHLE OF NOBORU.

THE WHOLE SET IS ATMOSPHERICALLY LIED BY HANS HOFFLER; SUGGESTIVE HALF-LIGHTS IN THE EXPLICIT SEX SCENES, STARKER WHITE POOLS FOR THE GANG'S WASTELAND PLAYGROUND OR THE DOCKS. THE OUTSIDE LOCATIONS ARE SET AGAINST A BACK PROJECTION DEPICTING THE SEA OR, IN THE END, SOME MOUNTAINOUS AND POLAR LANDSCAPE.

THE FIRST NIGHT CAST WAS INCREASED BY ONE, THANKS TO THE VOCAL INDISPOSITION OF STEPHANIE SUNDINE. BEVERLEY MORGAN SANG THE ROLE OF FUSAKO FROM THE SIDE OF THE STAGE, AT SHORT NOTICE BUT WITH AN AMAZING CONFIDENCE, WHILE SUNDINE WAS MIMING. RYUJI WAS ANDREW SCHMIDT, WHOSE RICHNESS OF VOICE GREW STEADILY AS THE EVENING WENT ON, WHILE NOBORU'S NERVOUS, TEMPESTUOUS EMOTIONS WERE REFLECTED EFFECTIVELY BY CLEMENS BIEBER'S HIGH, LYRICAL TENOR.

MARTIN GANTNER, LEANING ON ONE CRUTCH, WAS CHILLINGLY AUTHORTATIVE IN THE ROLE OF NUMMIER EINS, LEADER OF THE GANG, WHILE DAVID KNUSTON, RALF LUKAS, AND FRIEDRICH MOLSBERG COMBINED BELLISSIMILY IN THEIR GROTESQUE CLOSE HARMONY AS HIS UNDERLINGS. ORCHESTRALLY THE EVENING IS AN ABSOLUTE TRIUMPH, THANKS NOT LEAST TO THE DYNAMIC CONDUCTING OF MARKUS STENZ.



Brilliant staging: a scene from *Das verratene Meer*

## Nice music, shame about the ploy

### DANCE

John Percival

Game  
Sadler's Wells

GIVING THE BALLET THE APPEARANCE OF ORIGINALITY, ALTHOUGH HE HAS RECENTLY DONE SO TO COMBINE TWO CLICHÉS: THE ONE ABOUT PEOPLE IN A WHITE ROOM WITH A DOOR THAT MYSTERICALLY OPENS AND CLOSES, AND THE ONE ABOUT PEOPLE TURNED INTO BIRDS.

STEPHEN MEAH'S DESIGNS CLEVERLY HELP BOTH ASPECTS, THE COSTUMES SUBTLE IN THEIR AVIAN IMPLICATIONS, THE ROOM HANDSOMELY DISTORTED IN ITS PERSPECTIVE. THERE ARE THREATENINGLY CORRUPT COLOURS HIDDEN BEHIND CURTAINS, TO BE REVEALED AT RATHER TOO MANY KEY MOMENTS.

WITHIN THIS FRAME, TUCKETT ARRANGES HIS ACTION WITH A FLAIR FOR PRODUCTION WHICH EXPLAINS WHY THE ROYAL BALLET IS BACKING THIS YOUNG MAN'S ASPIRATIONS SO HOPEFULLY. THE GUESTS AT THE MYSTERIOUS PARTY BEHAVE WITH APPROPRIATE ALARM OR THREAT; BONNIE MOORE AND TONY FABRE ARE GOOD AS THE BADLY BEHAVED COUPLE WHO BRING MENACES AND WHAT LOOKS LIKE RAPE.

BUT IF WHAT IS LOOKED FOR IN A WOULD-BE CHOREOGRAPHER IS ORIGINAL MOVEMENT RATHER THAN CLEVERCLOPS IDEAS, IT HAS TO BE REWRITTEN FOR RATHER HARD.

EVEN THE IDEAS DEPEND MORE ON OBSCURANTISM THAN SENSE. TOWARDS THE END, SEVERAL OF THE CHARACTERS MIMIC THAT THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS GOING ON, A CIRCUMSTANCE IN WHICH MUCH OF THE AUDIENCE MUST HAVE CONCURRED.

WHEN THE HOST (AN O'BRIEN PERFORMANCE BY KEVIN O'HARE, ALL ENTITLED TO PRETEND HE IS AN INNOCENT IN HIS SPECTACLES AND WHITE CLOTHES) IS LEFT ALONE AT THE END, THE AUDIENCE SEES THE SYMBOLISM OF THE STAINS THAT HAVE APPEARED ON THE BACK OF HIS JACKET, BUT PROBABLY HAS NO IDEA WHAT THE EVIL IS THAT HAS CORRUPTED HIM.

THE NEW WORK WAS WELL DANCED; THE REST OF THE PROGRAMME HAD SOME WEAK LINKS IN ITS CAST, BUT MIREILLE BOURGEOIS'S VERY LIGHT JUMPS AND ARM POSITIONS IN *Les Sylphides* FASCINATINGLY GAVE A CLOSER IDEA THAN USUAL OF HOW FOKINE'S CHOREOGRAPHY RELATED TO ITS HISTORIC FRENCH INSPIRATION.

THE LEAFY SETTING FOR THIS WATER-SIDE THEATRE IS THE LOVELIEST IN BRITAIN. FOLLOWING THE SIGNS POINTING WEST FROM NEWBURY, YOU APPROACH THE HAMLET OF BAGNOR ACROSS TWO NARROW BRIDGES AND THERE, ON A BEND OF THE RIVER, STANDS A MELLOW GEORGIAN MILL.

THE STORY GOES THAT BACK IN THE 1960S, THE YOUNG MAN OF THE FAMILY, THEN LIVING IN THE NEIGHBOURING HOUSE, PLANNED TO TURN THE MILL INTO A CATHEDRAL, BUT DECIDED ON A THEATRE INSTEAD. THE INTERIOR IS NOW AN AUDITORIUM SEATING 88 DOWNSTAIRS, PLUS ANOTHER SCORE OR TWO UP IN THE GALLERIES.

WILLOWS LEAN OVER THE RIVER-BANK, FISH DART. PLUMP CATS ADVANCE TO BE PETTED. ON A HOT DAY NOT ENOUGH TO FRY EGGS ON THE SHAFTEBURY AVENUE PAVEMENT, THIS RURAL HIDEAWAY FEELS LIKE PARADISE. IN SUCH A HOME COUNTIES HAVEN, RICHARD EVERETT'S PLAY (DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER VILLERS)

ABOUT THE PRESSURES ON MONEY-SPINNING CITY FOLK SEEMED AT FIRST TOO CLOSE TO WHAT ONE MIGHT CALL, IF A TOUCH UNFAIRLY, GUILDFORD FAIR. COSY COMEDIES, COSY THRILLERS, COSY FARCES, AMIABLE SHOWS THAT TREAT THE AUDIENCE LIKE BAGNOR CATS, WHO NEVER EXPECT TO HAVE THEIR FUR RUBBED THE WRONG WAY.

AGAINST A FRENCH WINDOWS AND GARDEN SET, SO NATURALISTIC IT WAS TEMPTING TO GO UP IN THE INTERVAL AND PICK AT THE IVY, TWO IDLING BUILDERS ARE SUNBATHING INSTEAD OF GETTING ON WITH THE KITCHEN EXTENSION. ON COMES SHEILA ALLEN AS THE ANXIOUTLY PROTECTIVE WIFE OF STOCK-BROKER FRANCIS MATTHEWS, RECOVERING FROM A HEART ATTACK.

EVERETT'S MOST INTRIGUING CHARACTER IS THE HUSKY APOLOGETIC SISTER-IN-LAW; SHE CANNOT WORK OUT WHY HER FECKLESS HUSBAND'S SCHEMES ALWAYS FAIL, BUT SENSES

## Tragedy of the century

TELEVISION  
Sheridan Morley

WAY OUT THERE IN THE BLUE, RIDING ON A SMILE AND A SHOESHINE, FINDING THERE IS NO ROCK-BOTTOM TO LIFE, WILLY LOMAN IS THE PERPETUALLY TRAVELLING SALESMAN, WHO OUTRANKS EVEN JAMES TYRONE IN THE GALLERY OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE'S GREATEST TRAGIC HEROES. DUSTIN HOFFMAN WORKED BACKSTAGE ON ONE OF THE FIRST REVIVALS OF ARTHUR MILLER'S MASTERPIECE BACK IN THE 1950S; 30 YEARS LATER, HIS PORTRAYAL OF LOMAN ON BROADWAY ESTABLISHED *DEATH OF A SALESMAN* AS THE AMERICAN DRAMA OF THE CENTURY AND ON SATURDAY THAT PERFORMANCE CAME TO BBC 2 WITH KATE REID AS LINDA AND JOHN MAJKOVICH AS BIFF, IN A SUPERB TELEVISION ADAPTATION BY VOLKER SCHLÖNDORFF.

WHILE WE SMUGLY AND SOMETIMES EVEN RIGHTLY TELL OURSELVES THAT IN CONTRAST TO THE WEST END, BROADWAY IS A DERELICT BUILDING-SITE BEREFT OF MAJOR

# Ladies never lose their class

**W**hen it emerged last week that the Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances — patron, the Queen — was having trouble finding enough ladies in reduced circumstances on whom to bestow its benevolence, the question of what constitutes a suitable applicant raised its head.

Were there simply not enough "ladies", as defined by Edith Smallwood, the spinster daughter of a bank manager who founded the society in 1886 and raised funds for it by selling needlework and embroidery, left to justify the munificence made possible by the £50,000 annual income from investments now worth £7.5 million?

And how strictly does the society, and society in general, now define a lady in distress? The difficulties are as great, it seems, as picking a princess by placing a pea under a pile of mattresses.

"We didn't create the terms. Our job is to carry out the wishes of the good lady," says James Croft, a trustee and spokesman for the society, which is based in the genteel haven of Malvern in Worcestershire. Miss Smallwood's Charity, as it was once known, specifies "ladies of British nationality genuinely in need irrespective of social status. They must be unmarried — spinster, divorced or widowed — and I don't think it can apply to unmarried mothers," Mr Croft says. "Not just because unmarried mothers wouldn't be ladies, but because there are other institutions looking after them. We mean ladies who have seen better times — perhaps the widow of a doctor or a diplomat."

"Applicants can apply themselves, or are referred to us by doctors, social workers and relatives. We can give applicants up to £520 a year before it affects any DSS payments they receive. We can make up nursing and residential home fees, and we pay for telephones for all our ladies who still live in their own homes."

The telephone of the Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association has scarcely

Are our gentlefolk an endangered species?  
Alexandra King reports

stopped ringing since the news about the Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances slipped out. "People get us confused," Robin Tuck, its appeals secretary, says, because there were so many mentions made of "gentlewoman" and "distress" and we're in the London directory and they're not. We have been getting all sorts of women ringing us up saying: "We hear you've got all this money to give away."

But not the right sort, apparently. Has Mr Tuck's organization also got money going begging? No, he says. "Although we've got rather more than them, our annual running costs are £7 million and we have a staff of 400 in the homes we run and some 40 in headquarters. They don't have homes, I don't believe — and they don't advertise as much as we do, which is how we get the legacies which make up half our income."

The DGAA has waiting lists for its services in the south-east corner of England. "This is where most of the demand comes from," Mr Tuck says. "But there are no waiting lists in Dorset or Berkshire." As the population ages, the association is launching an appeal to put up nursing beds. Applicants are allowed to have up to £160,000 capital assets and yet still seek assistance in living in the style to which they were accustomed.

So how would the DGAA define a lady? Mrs Elizabeth Finn, who founded it in the 1890s, would have had no doubt," Mr Tuck says. "She had a very sharp notion of social standing. She was the widow of a consul who took up charitable interests and noticed sad cases of what she called 'distressed gentlefolk' and got ladies like herself together for 'conversations' or concerts so she could raise money for them. "She built up the organiza-

tion with her daughter and they got Princess Christian, Queen Victoria's daughter, as their patron. Our present patrons are the Queen Mother and the Duchess of Kent. And while there are nothing but titled and landed gentry on our committees, the people we help are in an in-between class, not covered by anyone else."

The DGAA takes into account "the background and way of life of the person concerned, who can be a British or Irish national of either sex, irrespective of religion or political creed", Mr Tuck says.

"The committee thinks very hard about whether this person would fit in with other distressed gentlefolk. Has she had a smattering of education so that she can talk to them? Culture is quite important, and there is a strong social element to it — like whether you can play bridge and whether you drink sherry rather than beer."

Such niceties matter more than whether someone has "fallen by the wayside" in more than just the financial sense, Mr Tuck says. But ultimately, he says, "you simply know a lady when you see one".

Major Douglas Sutherland, author of *The English Gentleman*, *The English Gentleman's Wife* and *The English Gentleman's Mistress* — all published by Debenham's — agrees. Provided, of course, the judge is another lady or gentleman. "I can tell a lady across a room," he says. "It's an indefinable thing. It has to do with the way she holds her head — high, but not imperiously. Relaxed. Women who aren't ladies always look over-anxious. Assurance is the hallmark of a lady."

A woman from any walk of life becomes a lady if she marries an acknowledged gentleman, according to Major Sutherland. But if an acknowledged lady marries a cad, does he become a gentleman? "No, he does not."

Being a lady has little to do with how you dress, insist both Major Sutherland and Harold Brooks-Baker, the publisher of *Burke's Peerage*. "Style is unimportant to a lady," Mr Brooks-Baker says. "But she is never vulgar."

According to Major

If clothes do not make the man, neither do gloves and hats a lady, nor mini skirts and fishnet tights a tramp. "You can't gain, or lose, class by the way you dress," Major Sutherland says. "Just look at the daughters of the chap who runs Monaco — they wear the most frightful clothes but they never lose their class, even though their mother was an American actress. Grace Kelly came from a very rich family, but you can't call rich Americans ladies."

Sutherland's rules, Princess Grace was automatically raised to ladyhood by her marriage to a prince. But, in order to do so, she had to sacrifice her career.

"A gentleman," Sutherland says, "is essentially an amateur. So is a lady."

Mr Brooks-Baker believes that "the real meaning of being a lady or a gentleman today is much closer to the way it started out 200 years ago than it has been. In the

17th century it meant someone who was able to help other people, someone sympathetic and interested, and in those days one might have had to risk his life to do so."

Today, good birth or fortune need only be a lucky addition to other ladylike qualities. Mr Brooks-Baker says. "Lady Olga Maitland is a lady not because she is titled, or because she is rich — which she isn't — but because she's a nice person."

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TONY WHITE



"You simply know a lady when you see one": two examples of a very British refinement



Signs of life: for women in their prime, fashion does not have to be a grey wasteland

## Fashion's mid-life crisis

**D**esigners and shops are having to cater for a new, older customer

the prime of power and potential.

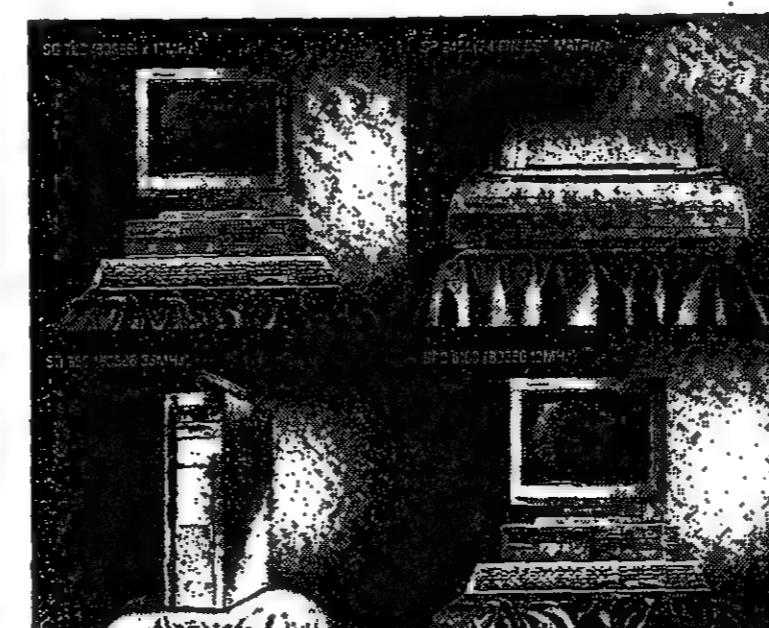
The panel of experienced fashion professionals — including two women aged more than 40, Sylvia Ayton of Wallis and Patricia Hamilton of John Lewis — examined the projects with as much amusement as bemusement. "They make their women look like 60 or 70," chuckled the chairman, Martin Moss, the former managing director of Simpson's of Piccadilly. "But these women are Nancy Reagans not Barbara Bushes — although some of them have white hair."

"They do not know where mid-life is," said Ms Ayton, aged 52, who dresses in mini skirts and pixie boots. "It is just somewhere between youth and death."

A grey wasteland, it seems, with dull, demure designs draped to camouflage middle-aged, spread and blending with grey hair and skins — enlivened by the odd Costa Brava cruise collection for Joan Collins types, with halter-necked tops, pleated swing-back jackets and trousers in vibrant colours.

One of only four finalists in this category, Helen Hawkins, aged 22, of Ravensbourne College in Kent, took mushrooms as her theme, with close-ups of the wrinkled fungi juxtaposed against mushroom-coloured pleated skirts and long sweaters for a look.

Victoria McKee



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## Public face of the bad losers

Is anything to be gained by being a good sport and keeping your upper lip stiff?

If you can meet with triumph and disaster, and treat those two impostors just them same, then you are clearly a senior politician. Last week's local elections precipitated the usual spectacle of all three major parties claiming victory. It is the nearest that modern politics gets to the idea of being a good loser: simply refuse to admit that you have lost at all.

As a local level, however, some results were enlivened by startling displays of bad losership. Notably there was the swipe from Fiona MacTaggart, the Labour leader in Wandsworth, south-west London, who lost her seat. "They can bribe them here, but they can't bribe the rest of the country," Ms MacTaggart scoffed. All the lashed was a set of black moustaches to twirl and she could have played the thwarted villain of any melodrama. Eric Pickles, Tory ex-leader of Bradford Council, didn't quite manage to compose his face into a good-loser smile either, and Charlie Smith, fighting Lady Porter in Westminster, resorted to an un-Churchillian version of the V-sign.

There may be a social trend here, worth pondering in the next few weeks of school sports days, when countless parents will be trying to instil in their small children the social grace of not biting people when you come last. It seems to have grown less important to be a good loser. Tennis players stamp and curse at Wimbledon, cricketers refuse to leave the crease gracefully, scorned lovers no longer emigrate to nurse a broken heart on a coffee plantation, and every sacked disc-jockey or passed-over newscaster opens his heart to the nearest newspaper. But the British virtue of losing gracefully seems to have gone out of fashion: asserting your anger is all the rage.

Perhaps — perish the thought — women are slightly to blame: certainly the clear-sightedness and lack of pomposity front which characterize modern women politicians can lead to a shortage of sportsmanship. When Harriet Harman won the Peckham Parliamentary by-election in

Libby Purves

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just being the most

appropriate.

Britain is quietly producing champions in two unusual sports: octopush and Thai boxing

# The games women play

**O**ctopush, also known as underwater hockey, is not one of the world's great spectator sports. Since the action takes place underwater, all you see from the top are backs and bottoms, the occasional flick of a flipper, and what look like dead bodies floating face down on the surface of the swimming pool.

Despite these disadvantages, the British women's octopush team, the European champion, is seeking £15,000 sponsorship to fund its attempt at the world championship in Montreal at the end of this month. When not in the water training, Clair Stratton, the captain, has spent the past six months writing letters and visiting potential backers. "It's not really my line; I'm a sculptor," she says. And she has not been particularly successful: so far the team has raised only £3,000.

The problem is partly that octopush is virtually unknown in this country. The game has two teams of 10 players, six of whom may be in the water at one time, and is played on the bottom of a swimming pool. Players wear masks, snorkels, flippers, water polo caps (to protect their ears) and gloves (to protect their hands); they use 12 inch bats to move a lead puck along a 25 metre "field" into goals nine feet wide.

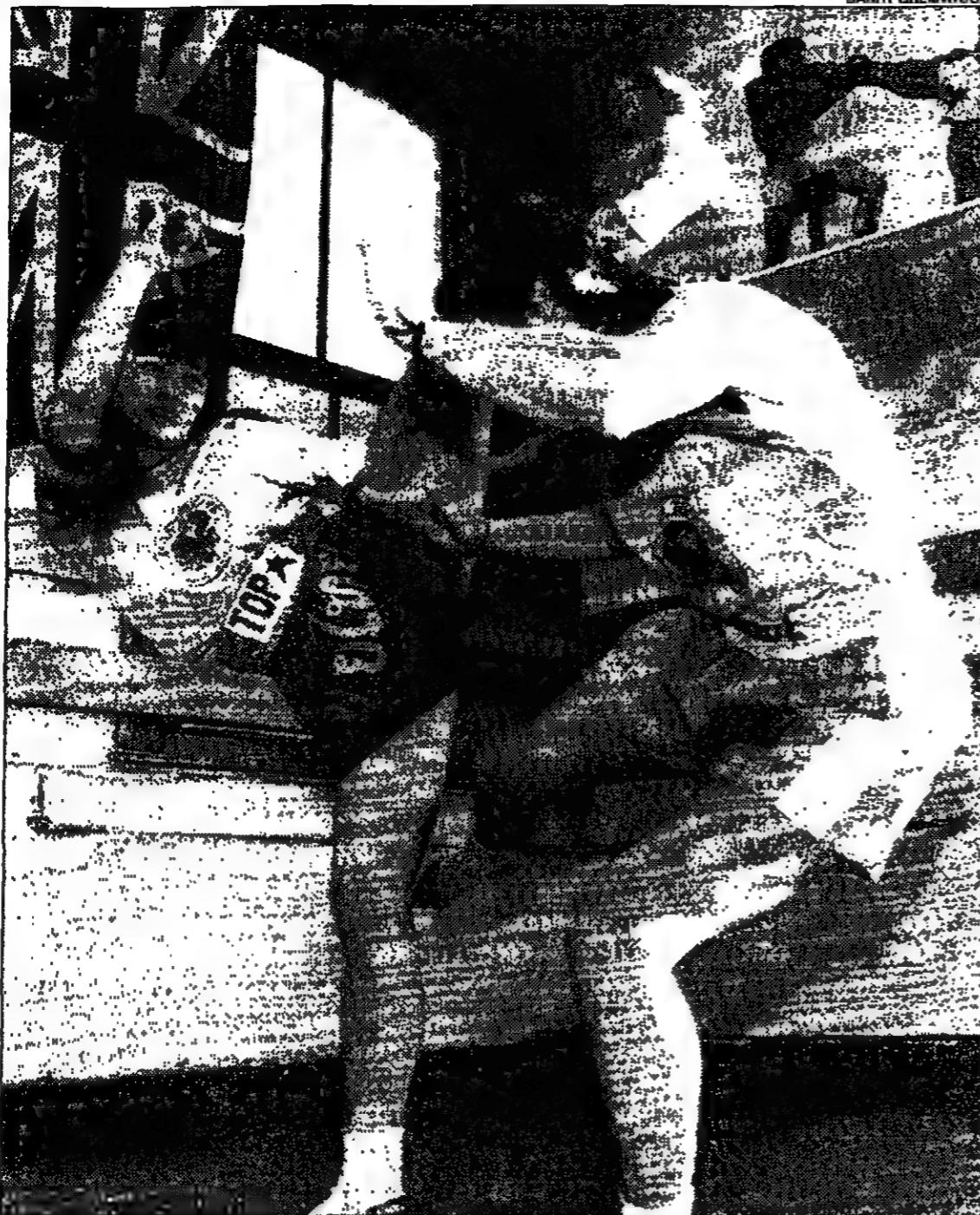
A further deterrent to sponsors is that when people do see it, they find it comical. "When people first see it they can't stop laughing; they think it looks ridiculous," Sian Evans, a member of the British team, says.

Octopush was started 36 years ago in Southsea, Hampshire, as a way for scuba divers to keep fit during winter, and has spread to 120 clubs in Britain and 20 other countries.

Add to the ignorance and the comic image the fact that any sponsor's logo would be submerged during play, and it is not so surprising that the team is having a hard time arousing interest. Yet octopush is an exciting game.

What you see, under the water, is a tangle of legs, arms and bodies as players fight for possession. All the time there is the drama of just how long a player who looks like scoring can hold her breath. The answer is "between 30 seconds and a minute," Ms Evans says, "although the key thing is actually a good recovery rate: to be able to hold your breath for 20 seconds, come up for a breath, and dive again".

The women train daily, in any pool that will allow mask and flippers, swimming alternate lengths above and below the water for at least 45 minutes. They spend weekends training with Ted Drake,



Ring of confidence: arms and legs fly as Ella Lee and Anne Quinlan test their skills in Thai boxing

their coach, who expects them to do two lengths underwater every five lengths. "It's like playing squash holding your breath," Ms Evans says.

Octopush is also quite dangerous. "You almost have tunnel vision because of your mask," Ms Stratton says. "You can turn and not realize you've bumped another player on the back of the head. The puck's pretty heavy and a lot of new

players to get into teams.

"The men are stronger, but we can certainly compete in terms of fitness and skill," Ms Stratton says.

The women expect their toughest competition in Montreal from New Zealand, the United States and Australia, the countries which beat them at the last world championships in The Netherlands two years ago. Since then, though, they have acquired a new coach, and believe they have improved in speed and endurance. The team members range in age from 15 to 30 and in size from petite to hefty. They are extremely fit.

Ms Stratton wishes the sport could attract more young women from swimming clubs. "If we could interest swimmers, we'd really have a lot of talent to choose from."

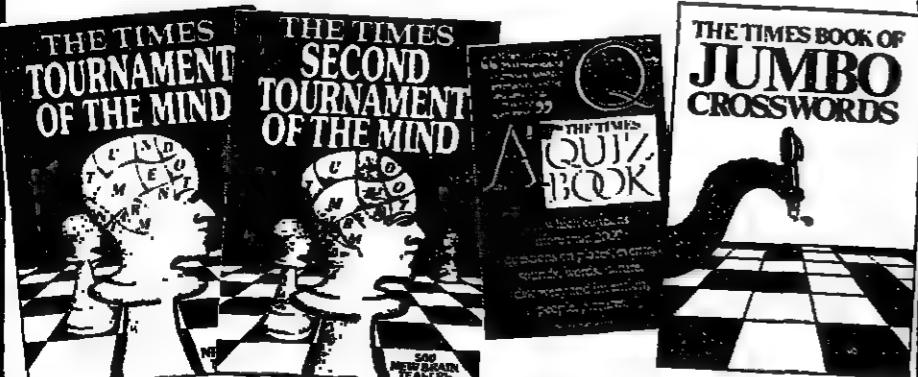
They all say what they get out of it is exhilaration. "You develop a sixth sense: you're in another element, so it's really weird when things are rolling and you can sense what's happening behind and above you," Ms Stratton says. It is also exhilarating to watch, but the national players fear that most people here will never have the opportunity.

The British women feel it is bad enough that the sport is not taken seriously; they are even more aggrieved that where it is recognized, they are seen as second-class players – despite the fact that all the internationals play for leading men's clubs, and have displaced



Underwater action: octopush players practise at Crystal Palace

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**A**gony aunts once recommended car maintenance classes to lonely hearts looking for romance. Now, it seems, women are queuing up for the chance to don overalls and grab a spanner – not so much to increase their chances of picking up Mr Right, as to reduce the risk of meeting Mr Wrong.

Shell, the oil products company, has launched a free nationwide car maintenance course for women and already, says Tim Green, the company's retail market manager, 3,000 women have applied. The Gemini Women's Workshops teach basic car maintenance: changing a wheel, checking oil and water levels and dealing with a broken fanbelt, for example.

The theory is that knowing how to cope with such minor mechanical failures will make women less vulnerable if their car breaks down. Women attending the two-hour evening classes also get a booklet on maintenance and safety checks, compiled in conjunction with the AA and the police.

Mr Green is pleased with the success of the workshops, and not surprised by the demand. "Women now comprise 47 per cent of motorists and are increasingly aware of the dangers of being stranded alone with their cars, so it is no wonder they are keen to know how to deal with minor breakdowns," he says.

But how useful would basic courses, such as those the Shell workshops, be for most women? Rebecca Hadley of the AA is slightly sceptical about the way the theory would work out in practice. The AA compiles a list of the top 10 breakdown call-outs, and topping this list, at 15 per cent of all calls, are problems with batteries. As she points out: "The majority are flat because someone has left the lights on, which is more a matter of common sense than car maintenance. It is useful to know how to start a car using jump leads, but of course you need another car for that."

"Nearly half the call-outs are for electrical problems of one kind or another. These days our patrols tend to carry electronic diagnostic kits, but even so, because the systems

are more intricate than they used to be, the solution is often to replace a component rather than carry out a repair. As a result the car may have to be towed to a garage."

Ms Hadley also points out that the AA does not advise members to change tyres on the hard shoulders of motorways. "It's true that if you know what you are doing you could be away in five minutes,

### JUST FOR KICKS

**A**t the age of 12, when most girls are busily modelling themselves on Madonna or Kylie Minogue, Ella Lee's role models were Rocky Balboa and Bruce Lee. When, at the age of 11, Anne Quinlan applied to join the Oldham Boys' Boxing Club, she was laughed off the premises. Undaunted, she enrolled in martial arts classes, and within weeks was sparring with the toughest boys in the gym.

Ms Lee, now an 18-year-old student, is the world flyweight champion in Thai kickboxing. Ms Quinlan, aged 22, a teacher, holds the European flyweight title. "Until I saw a video on Thai boxing some years ago, I never thought it would be possible for a woman to box seriously," she says.

An increasing number of women are taking up Thai boxing for fitness or self-defence, but many are spurred on by the challenge of competing in title fights. Thai master Thosaphon Sitiwatjana, or Master Todd, launched the sport in Britain a few years ago, and now estimates that 40 per cent of students training at his Manchester gym are women. "British girls are now walking away with all the big titles," he says. "I find that, compared to men, the women are more dedicated, they train harder, don't give up so easily and become better boxers."

**M**r Sitiwatjana arranges regular shows in Manchester, which are relayed live to Thailand, and show promoters are assured double the ticket sales if women feature on the bill. British champions such as Ms Lee have become star personalities in Japan and Thailand. In the Far East, America, France, The Netherlands and West Germany, Thai boxing is televised weekly, attracts healthy sponsorship and pulls in big crowds. But, even with so many English girls competing – and winning – with the exception of one transmission on Sky, no fights have yet been shown on British television.

Ann Holmes, aged 30, the world titleholder, believes this is due partly to resistance to women's sports, and partly to ignorance about this particular sport. "It's assumed the fight will be very violent, like ordinary boxing with blood and terrible injuries. There's no appreciation of the techniques involved."

What distinguishes the sport is the use of elbows, knees and feet, and the predominance of rapid high kicks. However, because learning to defend against blows is a fundamental skill, injuries, says Mr Sitiwatjana, who has trained six current titleholders, tend to be rare. "I've never seen a girl's nose broken or someone being knocked out cold, in spite of the fact that they hit with unbelievable speed and strength."

But experts such as Adrian Whiston, medical adviser to the British Boxing Board of Control, remain unconvinced about the sport's safety. "Women's bodies aren't built to withstand this type of contact sport," Dr Whiston says. "There's the risk of future long-term damage from blows to the breasts, or internal bleeding and bruising of the ovaries and other organs. These are things which should be seriously considered before taking up any very violent physical activity."

Geraldine Bedell

Alix Kirsta

# Finding a place in the Sunlight

Can a model village built for one company's workers keep its character as new owner-occupiers move in?

**N**o WORKING man of an independent turn of mind could breathe the atmosphere of the place for long, a trade union leader declared in the early years of the century. In those days, the main drawback of a half-timbered nook among the shady lawns of Port Sunlight, on Merseyside, was the paternalism of a landlord who was at once employer, all-enveloping benefactor and a peer of the realm.

For those factory workers who can still aspire to a home on the estate, a more material consideration today is likely to be the mortgage: the half-timbered nooks have trebled in value on the open market in the past three years.

Last week the company that manages Port Sunlight launched a bid to seek buyers among business executives and professional people moving into the region. It is one more step in the transformation of one of the most remarkable social experiments of a century ago into a mobile re-dedication to the mobile owner-occupier.

Unilever, the industrial empire built on a foundation of Sunlight Soap by William Lever, later Lord Leverhulme, began selling houses on the estate to occupying tenants 10 years ago, and more recently began to offer homes on the open market as they fell vacant. Prices now range between £50,000 and £90,000. This year is likely to see owner-occupiers begin to outnumber, for the first time, the remaining tenants.

When it was laid out in 1890, Port Sunlight marked a historic advance in the planning of working-class housing. Lord Leverhulme's ideal was to foster a healthier, more loyal workforce by taking employees out of the slums of Liverpool and housing them as a community in beautiful surroundings. Other industrialists had built housing for their workers, but he was the first to aim at something beyond a utilitarian model. Trade unionists attacked the project as an attempt to sweeten but perpetuate capitalist despotism. But its exam-

ple was a strong influence, not only on the garden city movement in this country, but also on town planners abroad. The change has aroused fears among some conservationists that the character of the estate – strikingly harmonious, even though many architects were responsible for different parts of it – may be eroded. "It is alarming, because of the danger that new owners will make piecemeal changes," says Trevor Mitchell, acting secretary of the Victorian Society. "Private ownership means improvement, and we do not like improvement." Glazed porches, picture windows, concrete roof-tiles and garages are the kind of desecration the Victorian Society fears.

The estate is a conservation area, and every house is a Grade II listed building. This means that big alterations like porches can in theory be banned by the local planning authority.

"The whole ethos of the place has changed over recent years, but there have been no problems over alterations," says Malcolm Moore, of the village's Heritage Centre, provided by Unilever. "The people who have come here know that the village is a protected environment, and that is exactly what has attracted them."

One feature of the estate has always been its elaborate public gardens and wide green boulevards. It won awards in the Britain in Bloom competitions in 1988 and 1989. A Unilever company maintains the gardens and has promised to continue to do so in perpetuity.

Port Sunlight may be on the point of entering another period of influence on town planning in this country. Some of its features (although not its character as a company estate associated with a large factory) call to mind the ideals of architectural traditionalism and human scale that the Prince of Wales has sought to promote, especially in his projected village near Dorchester, in Dorset.

### George Hill



Living in the past: terrace houses in Port Sunlight

## Boots and bonnets are in style

Learning how to deal with minor breakdowns is a vital element of road safety – even if you're not driving

Grace Rhoones teaches car mechanics at the Women's Motor Mechanics Workshop in Brixton, London. Although the training courses there are aimed at women who want to become car mechanics, Ms Rhoones confirms that a growing number of women drivers want to learn basic car maintenance. The workshop deals with these enquiries by keeping a list of women-only classes run in London. Ms Rhoones began her career by going to one of these herself.

She says: "I started because I didn't want to feel a fool if my car broke down as a result of something simple. Then I learnt how satisfying it was to be able to do things like change the spark-plugs, something garages charge quite a lot for but which isn't mysterious and takes only a few minutes."

But how useful would basic courses, such as those the Shell workshops, be for most women? Rebecca Hadley of the AA is slightly sceptical about the way the theory would work out in practice. The AA compiles a list of the top 10 breakdown call-outs, and topping this list, at 15 per cent of all calls, are problems with batteries. As she points out: "The majority are flat because someone has left the lights on, which is more a matter of common sense than car maintenance. It is useful to know how to start a car using jump leads, but of course you need another car for that."

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but there is always the risk of your car being knocked off the jack by the 'bow wave' of a passing vehicle."

In my experience, attempting to change a tyre also involves the humiliation of discovering that the wheel nuts have been put on so tightly they would require Superwoman to turn them. Mr Green says: "You can always ask the garage not to

tighten the nuts so much, or you can buy a special gadget you jump up and down on to give you enough leverage."

Part of the Gemini workshop course is devoted to routine maintenance checks, but surely any car handbook tells you how to check tyres, battery, oil, water and the rest?

Mr Green says: "Women never read instructions. They prefer to be shown what to do, and during the course of a workshop we can tackle all these problems."

Lee Rodwell



### THE ENGINEERING ASSEMBLY

The 1990 elections to the Engineering Assembly have been conducted by the Electoral Reform Society on behalf of The Engineering Council. The electorate comprises those registered with The Engineering Council as Chartered Engineers (CEng), Incorporated Engineers (IEng) and Engineering Technicians (EngTech), and with registered addresses in the Regions concerned.

The declaration of results is as follows:

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LONDON ZOO

لondon zoo

THE TIMES MONDAY MAY 7 1990

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

27

# Helping to save creatures, great and small

**L**ondon Zoo, one of the world's greatest, urgently needs funds to maintain its place as a leading centre of conservation, scientific research and animal husbandry. Its scientists, keepers and officers are committed to maintaining the diversity of animal life for future generations in an age when the wild land on which these animals can roam freely is rapidly shrinking.

Most people today want to see animals but few can afford to travel to an African park or other wildlife areas. The zoo therefore considers it has an important role in showing people living animals.

As part of its work, the zoo (motto: Every Living Thing is Our Concern) is beginning an exciting programme of refurbishment to take it into the next century.

Its role in conservation is equally important. Its scientists estimate that one animal or plant species becomes extinct every 10 minutes, one for every 1,500 human babies born.

The St Helena giant earwig and the Lord Howe Island stick insect are two among the thousands of species that no longer walk the earth, wiped out by habitat destruction and introduced pests.

By contrast, in one conservation project, the giant panda Chia Chia was sent on breeding loan to the Chapultepec Zoo in Mexico City, and successful breeding programmes have helped to return the Arabian oryx, the scimitar-horned oryx and Pere David's deer to the wild. If this breeding and conservation work is to continue and be extended, more cash is essential.

The Development Trust of the Zoological Society of London, which like its parent body is a registered charity, was set up in 1985 to help raise the money. Sir Gordon White, of Hanson Industries, is the trust's chairman, and Baroness Park of Monmouth became director last year on her retirement as principal of Somerville College, Oxford.

After a review, the Government gave the zoo a £10 million one-off grant in 1988 but today the only income from public funds is a £1.3 million annual grant to finance the Institute of Zoology, the society's scientific subsidiary.

The zoo needs funds to improve the environment in which the animals live. Priorities are a £7 million refurbishment of the aquarium, a £3.58 million insect and invertebrate house in the old

Ruth Gledhill charts the history of London Zoo and its work for animal conservation

**T**he Zoological Society of London was founded in 1826 on the initiative of Sir Stamford Raffles and Sir Humphry Davy, who was president of the Royal Society. Raffles had been inspired by the Jardin des Plantes in Paris and envisaged a similar project in the heart of London.

Like other scientific societies founded in London in the 19th century, it was originally intended to be primarily for scientists. Its early aims were the study of zoology and the introduction of exotic animals to Britain. The society was immediately leased part of Regent's Park for the collection.

The first animals were a white-headed eagle, a female deer, and Dr Brookes - a griffon vulture named after Dr Joshua Brookes, who donated it. The vulture survived for 40 years. The collection grew quickly and thousands of people were fascinated by the wildlife on display. The gardens were opened to the public two years later.

George IV granted the society its first charter in 1829, the year before he died, and his successor, William IV, gave the royal collections of animals at Windsor and at the Tower of London to the society.

The menagerie now included a Bengal lion, with lioness and cubs, a Cape lion, a Barbary lioness from the Atlas mountains, a tiger, a leopard, a jaguar, a puma, an African bloodhound and some secretary birds. Any duplicates were sent to Dublin.

Reg Fish, the chief librarian, says: "Now we are more concerned with conservation and keeping animals in groups. They did not seem to think about these things in those days."

The world's first public aquar-



Early exhibit: Russian bear

ium was opened in 1853, the first reptile house in 1849 and the first insect house in 1881. A few years later, the word "zoo" was coined by the Great Vance, a music hall singer, with his hit number, "Walking in the Zoo".

In 1854, an article in *The Illustrated News* noted that one of the zoo's most recent acquisitions was a bear captured by sailors on HMS Samson while in the Black Sea area. In 1872 the last quagga, a kind of African horse, in captivity died. The species is now extinct.

Other early celebrities included Jumbo, the first African elephant seen alive in England, received from Paris in exchange for a rhino in 1865. Jumbo was sold to the American Barnum Circus in 1882 amid a huge public outcry and endeared himself to the public by refusing to leave the zoo without his keeper.

He later met a tragic end when he charged a train in Canada.

Winnie, a black bear from Winnipeg, was deposited at the zoo in 1914 by the American forces on Salisbury Plain and achieved immortality as Winnie the Pooh in A.A. Milne's works. Milne regularly took his son Christopher to see the tamest bear the zoo has ever owned.

Companies Esso, Shell and BP have given more than £300,000 altogether and the Barclay brothers £500,000.

In addition, the Clore Foundation has donated £1 million for work done on the Clore Pavilion, which was given to the zoo by Sir Charles Clore.

Lady Park, a former diplomat, raised £3 million for Somerville, the Prime Minister's former college, over five years and developed

a wide range of contacts in industry and the City. She says: "I have found the same dedication to animals here as I found to the young and to scholarship at Oxford. It is the commitment and enthusiasm of the people that impress me very much."

Successful schemes at the zoo include Adopt an Animal, which offers visitors a jellyfish for £15 a year, or a giraffe for £1,500. Bats, bongo, lemurs and leopards are all up for adoption. More than £170,000 has been raised from 6,000 adopters. Lifewatch, a new scheme to incorporate Friends of the Zoo, which includes free admission with membership, has attracted nearly 4,000 members in six months.

Lord Peyton of Yeovil, treasurer of the society and chairman of Zoo Operations, a subsidiary company set up by the society to manage London Zoo and Whipsnade, says: "It is really important that the young should be given an opportunity to see the marvelous things of nature that are in danger of being trampled out of existence by an unfeeling human race, that they should come here and pause to wonder."

**P**rofessor Avron Mitchison, the society's president, says: "The diversity of animals is very important to man for a multitude of reasons, cultural, aesthetic, economic and scientific.

"The zoo is a centre of scientific excellence. It deserves the support of the scientific community and the nation."

Alexandra Dixon, the conservation officer, says: "We make a lot of good conservation work happen, whether or not we pay for it ourselves. We have the experience, the expertise and the connections." Miss Dixon and David Jones, director of the zoo, played an important role in setting up a project to help in the campaign against ivory poaching.

Mr Jones says: "The zoo is also important in an urban environment. Children see wildlife programmes on television, but they can get excited by animals in the living world in a way they do not by seeing wildlife films."

Peter Denton, director of administration, says the zoo is still running at a loss but gate receipts in this financial year have increased. "It is a challenge," he says. "There is no guarantee we are going to make it. But with goodwill, good support and a bit of luck we will."



Jumbo attraction: 125 years after the first elephant appeared at the zoo, they are still a big favourite

## EVERY LIVING THING IS OUR CONCERN



The Zoo is a tremendous national asset and resource.

It is a prominent part of London's history, one of the world's foremost biological institutions and is today in the forefront of conservation worldwide.

Its chief concerns are:

**Conservation:** It works through its research and animal management programmes to preserve endangered species.

**Education:** It introduces children to the world of living animals so that they can learn more about them and become actively involved in their future. When they visit London Zoo, children can see the movement of Kenyan elephants displayed by the new satellite tracking project. They can also learn about work to save the Black Rhino, the Partula Snail and, at Whipsnade, Pere David's deer, Przewalski's Horse and the Scimitar-horned Oryx.

**Research:** The Institute of Zoology works on a wide range of projects to produce a unique database on animal nutrition, reproduction genetics and veterinary care relevant to long term management of wild species.



THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

The Zoo thanks its contractors, Sir Robert McAlpine, for providing this space.

Rehabilitation: Working with other countries and institutions, the Zoo is helping to re-establish and manage some species which have become extinct in the wild.

All this is going on at London Zoo and Whipsnade Wild Animal Park but the Zoo itself needs long term support to maintain all this work.

The only regular support we receive from Government is the £1.3 million annual grant which helps fund the work of The Institute of Zoology.

Money is urgently needed to support new and important projects, and to provide a better environment for the animals using up-to-date technology. Our visitors, especially children, can then share a wonderful experience.

The Zoo needs money now for a new home for the Panda, for the Aquarium and the new Invertebrate House. It also needs money for conservation, animal breeding, and its valuable research work. This is your Zoo. Please support it.

To help, contact Lady Park of Monmouth, The Zoological Society of London Development Trust, Regents Park, London NW1 4RY, tel 071 722 1802.

Sir Robert McALPINE

## The Queen's visit

a royal occasion

On May 9th Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh will visit London Zoo in Regents Park to initiate the programme run from the Zoo's Elephant House to monitor the movement of wild elephants in central Kenya.

This novel system uses communications satellites to relay the position of individual elephants, carrying special transmitters, to the French Space Agency in Toulouse from where the information is passed to London and our workers in the field.

This project illustrates the way in which the Zoological Society of London combines the best in scientific knowledge with our worldwide network of contacts and our expertise in animal biology.

## Lifewatch

an opportunity for action

Lifewatch, the Society's new membership scheme has been established to support such conservation work and to provide an opportunity for all our friends and visitors to join us in this endeavour.

For more details about Lifewatch and the work of the Zoological Society of London contact Amanda Saunders at London Zoo, Regents Park, London NW1 4RY, telephone 071 722 3333, or Melanie Goss at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, near Dunstable, LU6 2LF Bedfordshire, telephone 0582 872171.



Michael Lester



# Rounding up the finance

The London Zoo is to undergo refurbishment to regain popularity, Malcolm Brown writes

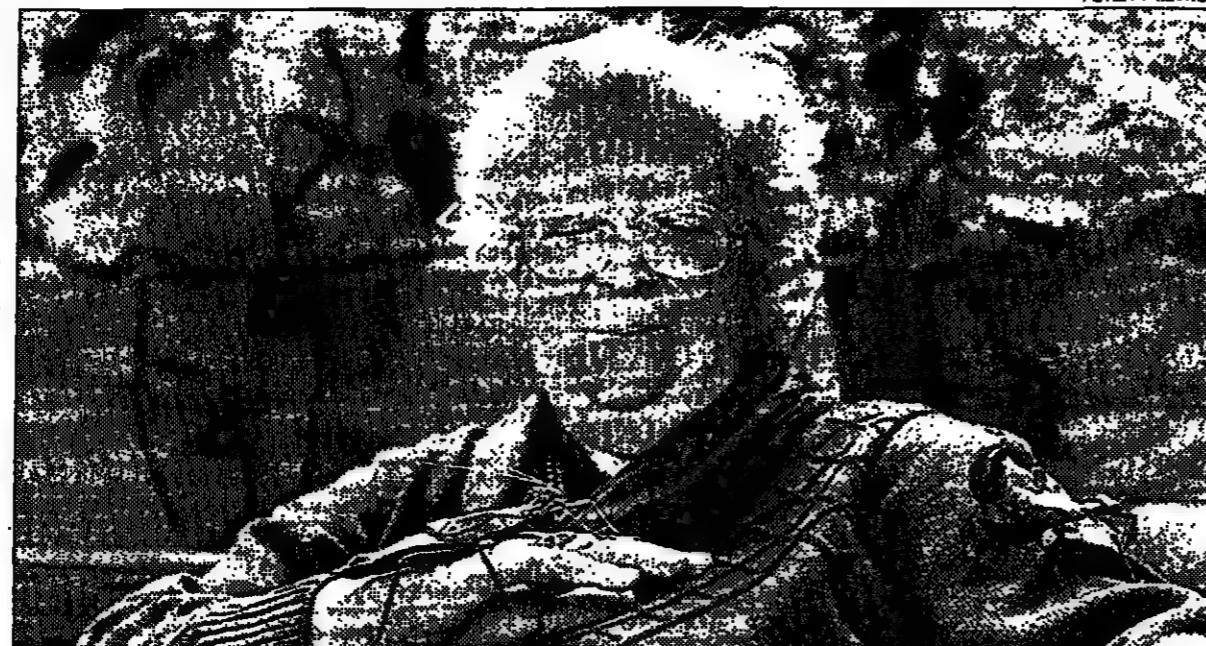
**T**he zoo needs to raise more than £20 million for developments that are essential if it is to compete as a London attraction. Baroness Park of Monmouth, former principal of Somerville College, Oxford, who is director of the zoo's fund-raising Development Trust, hopes to find at least a quarter of that during her two-year stint in the job.

The zoo, she says, has two functions: scientific research and entertainment. However, for a number of reasons, including its inaccessibility, it has lost popularity with the public, which has shown in gate figures.

To make the Regent's Park zoo and its sister organization, Whipsnade, more attractive they need to be refurbished and brought up to date, which would involve enormous capital expenditure.

Lady Park says there are three main projects at Regent's Park and one at Whipsnade:

- The Mappin Terraces. Once regarded as the focal point of the zoo, the terraces, which used to house the polar bears, were closed down in the mid-1980s and are now an eyesore. The zoo would like to transform them into a home for the panda, with the look and feel of a piece of north China.



Research and entertainment: Baroness Park of Monmouth will raise funds to improve both of these functions

The estimated cost is more than £8 million.

• The aquarium. The zoo wants to reequip the aquarium with state-of-the-art technology. The project would cost about £7 million. One of the problems is that the aquarium is below, and an integral part of, the Mappin Terraces, so the terrace and aquarium projects are to be interdependent.

• The invertebrate house. The insect collection is a big draw. The zoo, at a cost of £3.6 million, wants to renovate one of the Victorian buildings (either the parrot house or the ostrich house). "It is an all-year-round exhibit that people will come to whatever the weather if we make it exciting enough," Lady Park says.

The £3 million Whipsnade project – a conservation and breeding centre – will be carried out in three parts. The first will consist of laboratories to study disease in wild animals. "A lot

has been done on disease in domestic animals," Lady Park says, "but little is known about disease in wild animals. For instance, there was an epidemic among seals about two years ago and nobody knew what it was."

The second element will be breeding pens for endangered species. The third element is accommodation that will allow Whipsnade to conduct residential courses for veterinary surgeons from other countries.

The Institute of Zoology is at the forefront of research into genetics, reproduction and disease

**N**o animal could survive in captivity today and many will not survive in the wild in the future without the science and technology to protect them from disease, ensure successful breeding and maintain genetic diversity (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The Institute of Zoology, at the Zoological Society of London, is at the forefront of world research into reproduction, genetics and disease. Four research groups focus on veterinary science, comparative physiology, comparative medicine and conservation biology.

Professor Anthony Flint, director of science, says: "Zoos are basically about the ecology of small populations of animals and we do a lot of work on how to maintain these small groups.

"In 100 years, man will be controlling the breeding of all animals on this planet, simply because of the pressure

## Noah's Ark rescue

on habitats. We will have to manage all wild populations of animals. To do this, we are going to need a lot of information on various aspects of their ecology."

This is all part of conservation biology, which has been termed "the science for the 21st century".

In collaboration with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission, the institute has proposed new definitions for Red Data Book categories such as "endangered" and "rare".

Recent studies supported by the National Federation of Zoological Gardens focused on co-ordinated breeding programmes in zoos, particularly for threatened species such as

the Hyacinthine macaw and the Moluccan cockatoo, and the genetic and demographic risks to small zoo populations of species such as Greve's zebra, the cheetah, the cotton-top tamarin and the spectacled bear.

For its studies, the institute breeds five species: red deer, Père David's deer, marmoset monkeys, naked mole rats and opossums. Many of these studies have applications to man.

The institute has also developed methods for making up small breeding groups of animals using techniques such as DNA fingerprinting to obtain the best possible genetic mix. This is of particular importance when zoos are increasingly reluctant to take animals from the wild and prefer to breed from captive stock. The in-

situte's scientists can now genetically characterize an individual from a single hair root.

Professor Flint says: "It needs careful handling to work out how to maximize genetic diversity. If we are going to manage all the wildlife on this planet, one of the important areas in which we are going to have to produce information is in how to treat them when they become sick, how to catch them and how to sedate them to move them from one place to another.

"Clearly, we cannot test medicines on all the thousands of species of birds, fish and mammals they need to be used on, so our job is to work out what the rules are."

Many of the sedation and nutrition techniques developed by the institute are used in wildlife parks around the world. Professor Flint says: "A large part of the work we do is of importance to medicine and agriculture as well as conservation."

## Campaign to put Whipsnade top of the list for tourists Survival in the park

**W**hipsnae Wild Animal Park in Bedfordshire is one of the Zoological Society's most valuable assets, in terms of conservation, animal welfare and potential. The 600-acre park contains more than 2,500 animals on land owned outright by the society (Ruth Gledhill writes).

Yet recent market research showed that Whipsnade was not even on the day tripper's list of places to visit. When the society bought Whipsnade in 1927, circus elephants were used to clear the ground. The park was decades ahead of its time, purchased out of a belief that animals would not do well in a confined environment. It was the world's first open-plan park and has been used as a model for many other zoos.

Today a herd of Windsor white goats can be seen grazing close to historic Hampshire sheep, pitt ponies and Chinese water deer. The successful breeding record is testimony to the contentment of Whipsnade's animals.

Although 20 times the size of London Zoo, the park attracts less than a third of the visitors – 392,000 last year. Andrew Forbes, Whipsnade's chief executive, says his aim is to transform the park into more than a "country cousin" of the zoo.

The park was running at a loss when he took over in July 1988. It is labour-intensive, and, unlike other zoos, has avoided becoming a theme park. Instead, investment at Whipsnade has focused on breeding and conservation programmes.

Mr Forbes intends to strengthen this conservation emphasis. He is determined not just to put the park back on the visitor's itinerary but to take it to the top of the list.

He brought in Roy Thomas, former marketing manager at Windsor Safari Park, as part of a new management team to raise Whipsnade's public profile. Mr Thomas had increased the number of visitors at Windsor from 400,000 to 1.1 million in five years.

Richard Koch, a veterinary surgeon, was promoted to animal manager, and Chris Webster, a former army captain, was taken on as operations manager. The park now has one of best bird-of-prey demonstrations in Britain, a new children's farmyard will open later this year, and five acres of unused woodland have been converted into a woodland walk with hides to watch wild British birds.

Mr Forbes says: "Conservation is not just about elephants in Africa or pandas in China. It concerns all the animals in the world. Large numbers of the world's animals will be extinct by the year 2000."



The conservation initiative Whipsnade breeds rare and endangered species and returns the young to the wild

bustards was moved to the park in 1988. Whipsnade hopes to find a sponsor to give £30,000 over three years.

Mr Forbes is also planning a tiger area, to open next year, and a hilly area – through which visitors can drive – with animals wandering wild around waterfalls and streams.

Whipsnade has had many successful captive-breeding programmes. It has bred and reintroduced a herd of Père David's deer to China, where it had not lived in the wild for 2,000 years, and has bred and returned wild yak to an Afghan tribe driven into Turkey, to provide a link with the tribe's nomadic past.

The park is one of the few places in the world to breed wattled cranes and has become involved in a project to save the kouprey, an endangered bovine from Vietnam.

For every animal taken from the wild, more than 50 have been born at Whipsnade. The park has bred nearly nine out of every 10 animals it keeps. The society also intends to increase its commitment to breeding endangered species through the proposed £3 million initiative.

# HAVE A WILD TIME AT Whipsnade WILD ANIMAL PARK

Set in 600 acres of rolling Bedfordshire countryside, Whipsnade Wild Animal Park is the country home of the Zoological Society of London and the home to nearly 3,000 animals.



There is plenty to do at Whipsnade: the Woodland Bird Walk, Sealion demonstrations, Birds of Prey flying, Animal Encounters, the Run Wild Play Centre, Working Elephants, and the Whipsnade Steam Railway.

Behind the scenes, highly skilled people are involved in study projects throughout the world, increasing man's knowledge and understanding of animals, protecting endangered species and helping to ease the pressures that the human race imposes on the natural world.

Have a good day at Whipsnade and help the Zoological Society at the same time. Signposted from junction 9 and 12 off the M1.

For more information about the Zoological Society of London (owners of Whipsnade Wild Animal Park) and how you can help in its work, contact Lady Park of Monmouth, The Zoological Society of London Development Trust, Regents Park, London NW1 4RY, telephone 071 722 1802.

### Whipsnade's 'wild' diary

EXPERIENCE AFRICA, weekends and bank holidays in May. The music, culture, food and crafts of Africa...and much more.

STEAM-UP 16/17 June

Traction engine, model railway exhibition, Whipsnade steam railway - all train rides half-price

CONSERVATION WEEKEND, 28/29 July

Exhibitions, demonstrations of alternative technology

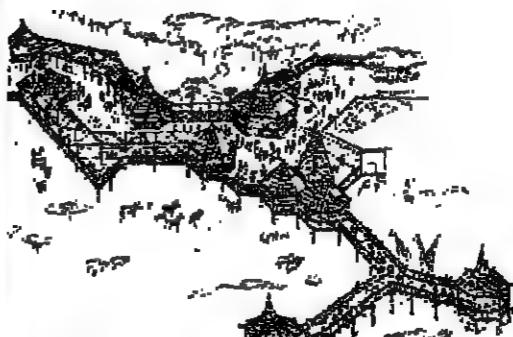
TEDDY BEARS PARTY, 26/27 August

Bring Teddy along for the competitions and Wild Animal Park bank holiday party

### INTERNATIONAL ZOO DESIGNERS



CENTRAL LAGOON DOHA ZOO



NEW AFRICA PADDOCK  
WHIPSNADE WILD ANIMAL PARK

THE JOHN S. BONNINGTON PARTNERSHIP, an architectural practice with an international reputation, has been associated with the Zoological Society of London since the early 70's working together on the design, construction, stocking and management of a number of zoos and wildlife parks in various parts of the world.

The association began when John S. Bonnington Partnership was appointed by the Municipality of Doha, the capital city of the Arabian Gulf Oil State of Qatar, to design a new educational and recreational Zoo. The architects appointed the Zoological Society of London as their consultants to advise them on the animal collection management, veterinary requirements and exhibit design.

The challenge was to create out of a hot dry desert, a cool shaded oasis for the enjoyment of nature. This project developed the creation of naturalistic environmental settings for animal exhibits, with the minimum of visual barriers between the visitors and the animals. The success of the Doha project resulted in subsequent appointments as Consultants for other Wild Life exhibits in the Middle East.

Commissions for the design of Kuwait Zoo and Marine Aquarium followed. Feasibility studies were prepared for the remodelling of the Al Ain Zoo in the United Arab Emirates, and the team are currently working on the masterplan for the Dubai Zoo. Enquiries for assistance on Zoo design have also been received from Hong Kong and Pakistan.

The Doha Zoo was completed, stocked and managed by the association for a five year period, during which the local staff were recruited and trained to take over the day-to-day management of the Zoo. John S. Bonnington Partnership's Head Office is located at Tyttenhanger House, a Grade 1 Listed Country House near St Albans, Hertfordshire. The architects are currently working on designs to remodel both London Zoo and Whipsnade Wild Animal Park. Construction on the new Bird Rearing Unit and Africa Aviary are under way at Regents Park. The Elephant Display Arena and Birds of Prey Amphitheatre are nearing completion at Whipsnade, where a new Childrens Farm and Adventure Play area are also under construction.

The Architects design team, which now includes Set Designers, Artists, and Landscapers from the film industry, are working on the creation of artificial environments, featuring mixed species exhibits in naturalistic settings where the visitor can actually enter the environment inhabited by the animals.

In association with American Architects, Cambridge Seven, similar concepts have been developed for the remodelling of the listed Mappin Terraces at Regents Park. Planning consent has recently been granted for this project.

The John S. Bonnington Partnership believe that the development of naturalistic habitat exhibits provides a more stimulating environment for Zoo animals and Zoo visitors alike. Modern techniques and exhibit design, utilising Wild Life Films, close-up photography and computer graphic displays, coupled with natural habitat design, can make a visit to the Zoo or Wild Life Park an exciting experience for families who otherwise would not have the opportunity for personal contact with wild animals.



REX FEATURES

# Experts in sickness and in health

People have rather romantic notions of what life in a zoo hospital is like. They expect to see lions with sore paws and suchlike. The reality is more prosaic. There are sick animals, but an awful lot of time is spent by veterinary surgeons pumping data into and out of computers to build databases in an attempt to understand the animals in their care — what are they like (medically and physiologically speaking) in sickness and in health?

That question is a lot more difficult to answer than it sounds, simply because of the sheer number of animal species in the world and the fact that every one is, to a greater or lesser extent, distinct from the others. There are 20,000 species of animals of which about 600 are represented in the zoo.

Humans are comparatively easy to deal with, says Dr James Kirkwood, the senior veterinary officer.

"You can go out and bleed 20 normal human beings and from that say, 'From these 20 human beings we know that the normal blood cell concentration seems to be between X and Y.' If anything falls outside that then we should be concerned."

"Our problem is that we're dealing with the medicine of 20,000 species of terrestrial vertebrates



Caring hands: veterinary nurses Christine Dean and Tony Fitzgerald take a blood sample from an owl before we start talking about fish and lots of other things. So we've got a gigantic problem of scale. We've got 20,000 and we know from the study of the domestic ones that although they are similar they

are not the same. You cannot say that the normal range of a haematological parameter for a horse or a man is necessarily going to throw light on what it might be for, say, a Philippine cloud rat or a giant panda."

So, one of the main jobs for London Zoo scientists is to try to establish a medical "baseline" for every type of wild animal.

"We have accumulated that huge database and we can now start

analysing that to develop principles," Dr Kirkwood says.

Just as complicated as knowing about the normal and abnormal physiological and biological states of wild animals is knowing how to treat them with medicines. Medicines do not have a uniform effectiveness across species. If a human being is ill the doctor can go to the British National Formulary to find out how much of a drug he should administer to a patient of a given size, weight and physical condition. You cannot do that with wild animals. With man it is relatively easy to tell whether you are giving a dose that is above the therapeutic threshold but below the toxic level.

While veterinary scientists are struggling with problems such as these, other researchers are trying to improve the general welfare of captive animals. The job of ethologist Dr David Shepherdson, an expert in the behaviour of animals in their natural habitat, is to try to enrich the lives of 200 animals.

"If you can provide an animal with an environment in captivity where it behaves the same way that it behaves in the wild then that's probably a reasonably adequate environment," he says.

Malcolm Brown



Locking horns: two black rhinos on Ol Ari Nyiro ranch

## Keeping track of the black rhino

**A**nimal conservation can involve researchers spending long periods in the wild. Rob Brett of the Zoological Society of London has spent the past three years tracking the rare black rhinoceros around the vast Ol Ari Nyiro ranch in Kenya (Malcolm Brown writes).

The 47 rhinos on the ranch are the only protected population of indigenous black rhino left in East Africa.

The ecology of wild animals — the study of them in their environments — can be vital to their conservation. Professor Anthony Flint, director of the Institute of Zoology, says:

"If you want to manage a group of rhinos in a wildlife park in Africa, then you need to know things like how many individuals you can put in a given area, what their sex ratio should be, what should be the proportion of juveniles in the population, what kinds of vegetation you require in a given area.

"Questions like that impinge on the management of animals in captivity."

If you were to introduce a male to a group of 50 rhinos, would you upset the sexual balance? To know that you need to know how big the

resident males' territories are and how many females are in a "harem".

Mr Brett has identified every one of the 47 rhinos, measured the size of their individual territories and studied how they interact and how frequently they move between different areas.

Professor Flint says: "What Brett did was to identify footprints. He could very rapidly identify the 47 animals by their footprints and that of course allowed him to tell where they had been, how far they were travelling in the day and which animals were associating."

One of Mr Brett's most innovative techniques was developed to find out about the sex lives of the male and female black rhino. "What he did was to use the fact that they spray their urine on the bushes," Professor Flint says.

"If you come up to a bush that a rhino has just urinated on you can collect urine from the leaves. The urine samples are frozen then sent over to the institute here for measurement of the male and female urinary steroid metabolites which you can use to identify when animals are pregnant and so forth."

## The deep-frozen future

### Sperm bank helps save rare wildlife from extinction

**O**ne of the most prized recent acquisitions of the Zoological Society of London is not an animal but a machine — a very expensive piece of equipment called a cryomicroscope, which allows scientists at the society's Institute of Zoology to watch animal semen being frozen and thawed for artificial insemination (Malcolm Brown writes).

London is part of an international scientific community of zoologists and researchers who exchange not only information but animal genes, so that rare animals may be saved from extinction or reintroduced into the wild from established captive stock.

Researchers talk of the zoo as a kind of "ark" of genetic material that can be dispatched world-wide. It may go either "on the hoof" — for example, institute scientists have been instrumental in introducing European-bred scimitar-horned oryx to Tunisia — or in test tubes, in the latter case as frozen semen, which is used to impregnate local females artificially.

The catch with artificial insemination, says Professor Anthony Flint, director of the Institute of Zoology, is that every species of animal will have different requirements for the freezing rate or the thawing rate of its semen.

The cryomicroscope allows you to freeze samples on the microscope so that you can watch them being cooled and thawed in a controlled way."

One area of international co-operation where this technique should prove invaluable is panda mating, traditionally one of the most difficult tasks in zoological match-making. Reintroducing endangered species to the wild by breeding them in the UK then transporting them to their natural habitat has proved very successful in recent years.



Safeguarding tomorrow's world: Professor Anthony Flint at work in the laboratory

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# Oxford woos the mature

A ceremony at Oxford this week will mark a change that promises to be as profound as any yet seen at the university, Douglas Broom reports

The inauguration of a new Oxford college is a rare event. But this Friday's ceremony will mark the onset of a veritable revolution at Britain's oldest university. Rewley House, home of Oxford's Department of External Studies, will be formally admitted to the status of a university "Society of Enclosure", according to its dons the standing of Fellows and putting adult education firmly on the Oxford map.

By giving Rewley House the same standing as Oxford's 41 other colleges and halls, the university is taking its first ceremonial step towards the large-scale admission of mature external students.

Like other universities, Oxford is playing its part in the drive to expand the number of students in higher education. Plans to increase student numbers by 10 per cent by the end of century have just been approved.

But, unlike any other university, Oxford intends to achieve its expansion by admitting mature students in large numbers. Such a course is radical enough in its own right but it that should come from the Britain's oldest and most conservative university is startling.

There will be more mature undergraduates joining three-year degree courses, and it will flirt with concepts such as part-time degrees and foundation courses.

The decision to opt for mature entrants rather than conventional sixth formers was prompted partly by the demographic downturn, which will see the teenager population fall by a third by 1993.

Trying to catch more fish in a smaller pool raises the spectre of lowering standards and undermining Oxford's *raison d'être*. However, there is more than a hint of altruism about the scheme, reflecting a desire to give more to the community while retaining Oxford's academic character.

More than three-quarters of colleges, in a recent university survey, said they expected to admit more mature students.

The change of heart in one of the most traditionalist academic institutions in the land follows the publication of a report by a committee under the chairmanship of Clark Brundin, vice-chancellor of Warwick University. Dr Brundin and his team spent a year examining ways of bringing Oxford into line with current thinking on university admissions.

Oxford has lagged behind the general trend in higher education over the last decade towards recruiting students from groups other than the conventional pool of bright sixth-formers. Mature students accounted for only 1.5 per cent of last October's intake and of 13,972 Oxford-

undergraduates only 150 are over the age of 22. Although all colleges now accept applications from people with "non-standard qualifications", mature students face even tougher competition for places than their teenage counterparts.

A third who applied from school were accepted last year, but only a fifth of mature applicants won a degree course place.

But the Oxford reforms are not without their risks. Widening access to higher education means changes in other institutions. Most successful attempts have involved dismantling the continuous three-year course and re-assembling it as a series of "modules", self-contained study units that can be taken any time.

The Open University has built its success on the "credit" principle, allowing students to study at their own pace, building up credits for each completed module.

Oxford's tutorial system, with its intensive personal relationship between student and tutor, is as far away from the OU's modular curriculum as it is possible to get.

The idea of allowing any part-time degree has provoked outrage, although there is agreement that at postgraduate level the more flexible system will work. An MSc in applied social studies, already approved for October 1991, will be Oxford's first part-time degree in its 800-year history.

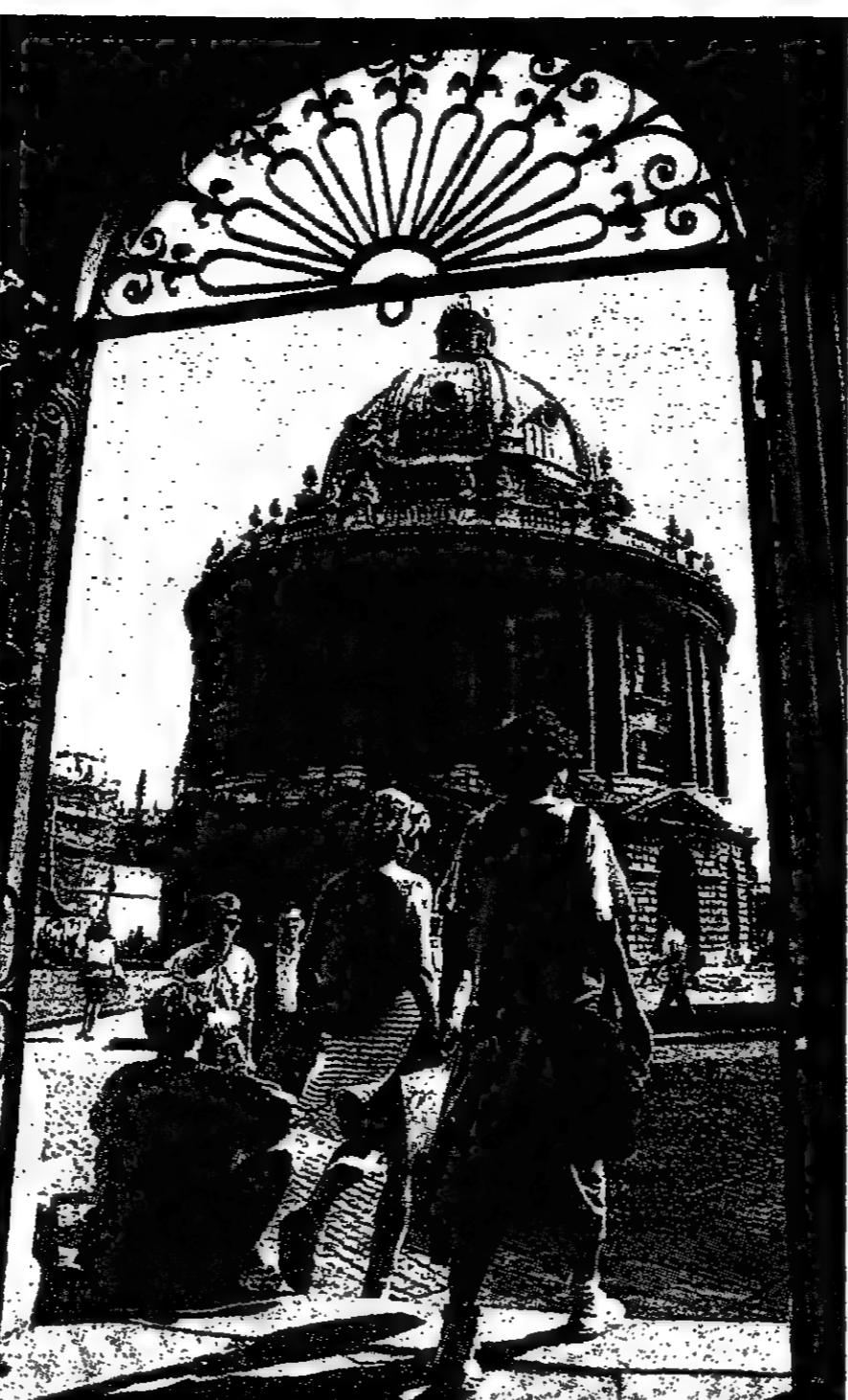
At first degree level, the debate is fiercer. Many do not say privately that they will have nothing to do with the mature-students project; they oppose part-time degrees bitterly, arguing that Oxford should stick to what it does best.

These views are not expressed on the record, but the Brundin committee heard enough of them to know that an all-out commitment to part-time study would not be acceptable. Instead, it proposed a compromise. Mature students could be allowed to follow a part-time course for the equivalent of the first year of a degree course. Thereafter, they would join a college full-time for the last two years.

The report said that a degree course that was studied part-time throughout would be seen as "second-class". It was important that mature students were subjected to the same rigours as their younger brethren.

Dr Richard Rapp, master of St Cross College and a member of the Brundin committee, said: "We were trying to establish systems and methods which would allow much greater flexibility."

Trevor Rowley, acting deputy director of Rewley House, said Oxford had finally put "national concerns" on to its agenda. He added: "While the recommendations are not very radical, they open the way for an



Doorway to change: many more mature students will soon be studying at Oxford

experiment which may lead to radical changes by the end of the century."

The admission of Rewley House to the power to admit students to university degree courses in the same way as the other colleges and halls. The same distinction was conferred last year on Manchester College, which became Oxford's first college devoted exclusively to mature students.

Manchester's academic secretary, Judith Nisbet, said her students faced difficulties adjusting to college life. It meant leaving their home and job security for life in a college room or a student grant. But she was confident that the college would be swamped with applications.

As well as proposing new ways of joining degree courses, the Brundin report called for a boost to be given to the traditional "liberal" studies that the university has offered for the last 100 years. In 1908, a committee was founded by doyes from Oxford. Representatives from the Workers' Educational Association and its report, "Oxford and Working Class Education", launched the programme of non-degree studies which survives to this day.

As well as calling for the establishment of foundation courses for those without the relevant A levels, the Brundin report also urged an expansion of vocational courses.

Last week, Congregation, the university's parliament, approved a motion which effectively declared the Brundin report open for debate. It will now be up to the dons to decide how much of Dr Brundin's vision will become a reality.

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## The struggle for our heritage

**Academics must leave their ivory towers and join the debate on history teaching, says Patrick Collinson**

content. But I believe we shall find that the report has got the skills-content issue right.

It has also correctly determined the proportions devoted to the British Isles, Europe and the wider world, while allowing space for local history in the additional, school-designed history units.

Within this curriculum children must study British history in all its main periods, as well as some ancient, European and extra-European history. Of nine units studied between the ages of 11 and 14, as many as five will be British or mostly British in content, with one unit each of ancient (Roman Empire), European, American and non-Western history. Again, we may expect a backlash.

The formula PESC spells out a measured mix in every one of the prescribed study units of elements defined as Political, Economic, technological and scientific, Social and religious, and Cultural and aesthetic. Its rigidity is contestable and it is not equally suitable for all periods and topics.

There is detail to object to, from the single paragraph devoted to oral history as a resource to the virtual exclusion of the First World War. A more fundamental, if commendable, flaw is the ambition of the report, attributing to schoolchildren qualities of mind not always found in undergraduates and claiming four hours a week for history if the subject is to be taken with this degree of seriousness, while admitting it is unlikely to get four hours.

I shall criticize the definition of the contents of the course units, according to the PESC formula. I hope the debate will show there has been too much prescription, a straitjacket of "such as" material, arbitrarily defined as "essential information" when it is not.

There is no reason why the Armada should be deemed essential, or Charles I's execution merely exemplary. The Civil War, Charles I and Oliver Cromwell are all essential. Should children study the Civil War without being told that it ended, in one sense, with the abolition of the monarchy and, in another, with its restoration, also exemplary?

But why constrain teachers to this extent? The report devalues their ability to handle such topics in ways that conform to many variables, including social and ethnic background and locality and — dare I say it? — the enthusiasms of both teachers and pupils. But that is not to say we do not need a history curriculum.

• The author is Regius Professor of Modern History at Cambridge.

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The closing date for application is 31 May 1990.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from:

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For further details contact:

Mr D. J. Gill, Director of Postgraduate Studies, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD (0602 348498 ext 3040).

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For further details contact:

Mr D. J. Gill,

## PREVIEW

TODAY Art &amp; Auctions

● TUESDAY Theatre &amp; Cabaret ● WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz &amp; World Music ● THURSDAY Opera, Dance &amp; Books ● FRIDAY Classical Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

## ART EXHIBITIONS

David Lee

## NEW IN LONDON

**A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY:** A retrospective of paintings narrating private mythologies and yearnings, and frequently dealing with seafarers, harbours and odysseys, by Patrick Hayman (1915-1988). Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3 (071-435 2645). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat-Sun, 1-5pm, free, until June 17. From Wed.

**VIENS IN THE LAKE DISTRICT 1790-1815:** Drawings and watercolours from the period of English art when classicism and topography were ceding to romanticism. Moss Galleries, 238 Brompton Road, SW3 (071-223 3388). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 11am-4pm, free, until May 18. From Wed.

**SIR MATTHEW SMITH (1874-1959):** Thirty works by a painter of juicy nudes and still lives who was (and still is) admired by fellow painters but is inexplicably overlooked in historical surveys and accounts of British art. Crane Kalman Gallery, 178 Brompton Road, SW1 (071-584 7566). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm, free, until May 31. From Thurs.

**HOW AND WHY:** Humorous drawings, paintings and ceramics by Punch contributor Steven Appleby. Creeser Gallery, 315 Portobello Road, London W10 (081-960 4928). Tues-Sat, 10.30am-5.30pm, free, until June 9. From Thurs.

**THE ART OF GERMAN DRAWING VII:** Abstract drawing since 1949 as exemplified by Peter Bruegel, Bernhard Schutze, Emil Schumacher, K. Sonderborg and Hann Trier. Goethe-Institut, 50 Princes Gate, SW7 (071-581 3344). Mon-Thurs, 12.30pm, Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm, free, until June 15. From Tues.

## CONTINUING

**LUCIAN FREUD, FRANK AUERBACH, RICHARD DEACON:** Painting and sculpture from the largest British private collection. Seatch Collection, 984 Boundary Road, London NW8 (071-624 8299). Fri-Sat, 12.30pm, free, until November.

**TWENTIETH CENTURY TAPESTRY:** Works by distinguished artists such as Miro, Picasso, Vasarely and Sutherland. Extended until May 15. Crans Gallery, 171a Sloane Street, SW1 (071-235 2464). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 10am-4pm, free.

**ERIC GILL:** An exhibition of prints and drawings. The Cartoon Gallery, 83 Lamb's Conduit Street, WC1 (071-542 6236). Mon-Fri, Sat, 10.30am-2.30pm, Tues-Thurs, 10.30am-5.30pm, free. Until May 15.

**FAKE IT! THE ART OF DECEPTION:** Six hundred 600 fakes and originals from all periods including Van Meegeren's infamous "Vermeers". British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-836 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30pm, £3 (concessions), until September 2.

**PAINTING IN FOCUS:** The recent acquisition, Winter Landscape, by German Romantic painter Caspar David Friedrich (1774-1840) comes under scholarly scrutiny. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (071-539 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2.30pm, free, until July 2.

**POLITICAL POSTERS FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND THE USSR:** Recent graphics from the perestroika and new democracy movements. Victoria and Albert Museum, Exhibition Road, SW7 (071-938 8500). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, free, until July 1.

**GOYA'S MAJAS:** The Naked and

## Observe the truth foretold



**T**he Pursuit of The Real is a ponderous, off-putting title for an exhibition celebrating the highest achievements of 20th century British painting. All 12 artists featured, including Sickert, Bomberg, Bacon, Auerbach and Michael Andrews, share a desire to explore intimately a subject by painting it, in the case of "Self-Portrait With Patricia Prece" (above), by Stanley Spencer, the artist himself practising his craft by crawling like an ant across the woman's body. Within months of completing this picture he would marry Patricia, who being a lesbian refused to consummate the marriage. Having lured him away from his first wife, Patricia used her position to fleece the artist of money and property.

Clothed Majas, two of Goya's most intriguing paintings, are on temporary loan from the Prado in Madrid. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-539 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, free, until July 1.

**ROBERT RAUCHENBERG:** Paintings 1962-1980, which collage together imagery from different media sources, by a dissenting American Pop artist now regarded as an Old Master. Runkel-Haus, 60 Old Bond Street, W1 (071-485 7017). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sun, 9.30am-12.30pm, free, until June 15. From Tues.

**OUTSIDE LONDON**

IT'S A STILL LIFE: Selected from the Arts Council collection this survey of post-war British art shows a multiplicity of approaches to the still life genre. Metropole Arts Centre, The Leas, Folkestone (0303 523523). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, free, until June 3. From today.

**THE ATOMIC YARD:** Photo-works reflecting on social changes in the 1950s by John Goto, last year's art fellow at Girton College, Cambridge and an artist unimimidated by big themes. Kettle's Yard Gallery, Castle Street, Cambridge (0223 532124). Tues-Sat, 10.30am-5pm, free, until June 2. From Tues.

**JAMES MCNEIL WHISTLER (1834-1903):** Etchings, lithographs, drawings and watercolours including famous Impressionist from the Venice and Thames series. Ewan Molyneux, 48 West George Street, Glasgow (041 331 2406). Mon-Sat, 9.30am-5pm, free, until June 2. From Wed.

**THE COMPASS CONTRIBUTION:** The 21st birthday of the city's Compass Gallery is celebrated by artists shown along the way, among them Scots Craigie Aitchison, Bellany, Steven Campbell and William Crozier.

Tramway, 25 Albert Drive, Glasgow (041 223 9527). Daily, 10am-10pm, free, until June 24. From Thurs.

**FUTURELAND:** Large-scale colour images based on the techniques and style of advertising, and addressing contemporary social and political

For so passionate a man the marriage was frustrating and desolate. With hindsight it is easy to read into the helplessness that was to follow. Years after he painted this picture, and its pendant the so-called "Leg of Mutton Nude", now in the Tate Gallery, Spencer attempted without success to square the painting's implicit sexualities with his fervent Christian beliefs. There are other nudes in the show by Coldstream, Freud, Uglow and Kossoff. *The Pursuit of the Real* Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-638 4141). Opens Thursday. Mon-Sat, 10am-6.45pm, Sun and Bank Holidays, 12.54pm, £3.50 (£1.75 concs), until July 8. *David Lee*

issues, by John Kippin and Chris Wallwork. Ikon Gallery, 58-72 John Bright Street, Birmingham (021 235 2801). Tues-Sat, 10am-6pm, free, until June 8. From Sat.

**HENRY MOORE: WORKING MODELS AND SKETCH MODELS:** Small sculptures modelled by the master's own hand in what were by-out sizes. Mead Gallery, University of Warwick, Coventry (0203 523523). Mon-Fri, 12.30pm, Sat, 10am-8pm, free, until June 12. From Sat.

**WILHELMINA BARNS GRAHAM:** Landscapes and some abstract paintings 1940-69, by a senior artist of the St Ives School whose members tend to deal with the outdoors rather than the superficial appearances of landscape. McIrvine Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ay (0223 43708). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, free, until May 30. From today.

**TRANSFORMATION: THE LEGACY OF AUTHORITY:** Recent works by 21 artists from the Soviet Union in which new artistic liberties are exploited to reinterpret a past formerly portrayed in the Socialist Realist style. The Minories Art Gallery, 74 High Street, Colchester (0206 570767). Tues-Sat, 10.30am-5.30pm, free, until June 3. From Tues.

**FOLLY AND VICE:** A survey of satire and social criticism in art which includes all the most incisive political commentaries from Goya and Hogarth to Daumer and Groz. Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square (021 235 2800). Mon-Sat, 9.30am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, free, until June 24. From Sat.

**ROBISON LOWE:** One of the best known figures in the international stamp collecting world. The business he founded 70 years ago is now part of Christie's but the firm is holding a stamp exhibition to mark the anniversary which coincides with Stamp Fair 90 at Alexandra Palace. Among the most interesting exhibits are two halves of an 1840 2d blue, bisected in 1841. The left half was sent to Beverley and the right to Lincoln but they were remarkably united after a Mr Lowe visited a friend 97 years later. His friend was using splits from old envelopes to light his pipe. Fortunately

towers will go for 18C, nature loving motorists 61 RDS, and doctors 998 Gf MED 1C as more off-beat car registrations come on the market from the Ministry of Transport. POP 11 to the 617-lot auction but be prepared to spend between £1,000-25,000 a time.

**PHILIPS WEST TWO:** 10 Salem Road, Bayswater, W2 (071-229 9090). Sale: Wed, Thurs, 10am and 2pm at The Tents, Chelsea Harbour, SW10. 11am-5pm, admission £2.

**CAR CLASSICS:** Classical music lovers will go for 18C, nature loving

motorists 61 RDS, and doctors 998 Gf MED 1C as more off-beat car

registrations come on the market from the Ministry of Transport. POP 11 to the 617-lot auction but be prepared to spend between £1,000-25,000 a time.

**SHIRLEY VALENTINE:** Eves 8am-7pm, Tues 3-5pm. The audience roars approval. Shirley's sex is irreverent

D. H. Lawrence's *Women in Love* (below)

is a riotous comedy of sex and violence.

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**THE WOM**





## SPORT

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THE TIMES MONDAY MAY 7 1990

## League under bank holiday cloud

By Stuart Jones  
Football Correspondent

THE inevitable inquiry into the violent disturbances in Bournemouth this weekend could lead to a widening of the gap between football's ruling bodies. It will be held by the Football Association and the verdict is unlikely to favour the Football League, which refused to alter the timing of the match involving the visit of Leeds United.

When the fixture list was published 11 months ago, the police recognized the potentially fearful consequences. In June the League was advised that, if the south coast resort was to accommodate the notorious followers of Leeds, a bank holiday weekend might not be the ideal occasion.

Police requests for a rearrangement became more urgent once the game increased in significance. With promo-

tion" and the second-division championship at stake for Leeds and the relegation of Bournemouth all resting on the outcome, the event was volatile even if the mixture had not been fuelled by alcohol and a burning sun.

To defuse the situation, an army of 700 policemen (some mounted and many equipped for a riot) were gathered from seven different forces. Their contribution cannot be underestimated. Without them, Dean Park might have been transformed from a picturesque area into a scene reminiscent of Hillsborough last April.

It was terrifying enough as it was. King's Park, the spacious area behind the main stand, resembled a scene of ancient warfare. For more than two hours before the kick-off, thousands of ticketless northerners expressed their frustration by hurling missiles, such

as bricks and bottles, at the men in uniform.

Mercifully, the gesture was futile and miraculously the match not only started but also finished on schedule.

Apart from one brief, isolated outbreak of crowd trouble, the behaviour of the 9,918 spectators inside the stadium of a stark contrast to the unkindness outside and elsewhere.

Alan Rose, Dorset's Deputy Chief Constable, claimed with every justification that the police operation, mounted at a cost of £100,000 and planned for a month, was "a success". He estimated that between 3,000 and 4,000 Leeds supporters were "hell-bent on getting in without tickets and we stopped them."

"We could have refused to police the game but we've never done that in this country. There might have been more arrests but we would then

have lost policemen and we needed every one of those 11. If Leeds had lost, it might have been a different matter." He could not have been accused of exaggeration.

"You cannot ban games," he added. "That would be giving in to hooligans. But the Football League must take more notice of senior police officers who have hard intelligence that there will be problems."

The League had insisted that, for the sake of fairness, all of the closing fixtures should be held simultaneously.

"After Hillsborough I would have thought that safety is more important than the integrity of the second division championship," the Deputy Chief Constable said.

"Besides, in the present climate concerning the possible re-entry of clubs into Europe, it was wrong for this sort of

thing to happen. I've been in the force for 33 years here and I've never seen scenes like this and that includes the Mods and Rockers in the Sixties."

He could not have been accused of exaggeration.

"There were 2,000 people on Friday night, mixing with holidaymakers and residents, who were just committed to causing chaos."

His words should shake the complacency of the misguided who believe that the threat of hooliganism has been removed.

As the innocent citizens of Bournemouth can confirm it has merely been displaced. Ironically, the FA had already planned to reduce the danger posed by the presence of Leeds in the first division.

The availability of tickets for their away games next season is to be the principal topic of discussion between the FA and the club this summer. The League, unbeknown to the FA, had 11

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Match report, page 28

IAN STEWART

## Olazábal a step nearer to first victory in Britain

By Mitchell Platiss, Golf Correspondent

José-Maria Olazábal captured the lead in the Benson and Hedges International with a third round of 69 at St Mellion, near Plymouth, yesterday.

It is nothing new for Olazábal to be showing the way. He has won six tournaments in five countries since he became in 1986 a member of the PGA European Tour. Olazábal, however, has not won in Britain.

To remedy that situation Olazábal, who has an aggregate of 206, which is 10 under par, will need to parity the thrusts of Ian Woosnam, one stroke behind following a 69, and Mark McNulty, who took 73 for 208. Colín Montgomerie is another two strokes adrift following a 70.

What is more, Olazábal has a score to settle with Woosnam. It was Woosnam who beat him in the Suntry World Match Play Championship last October and Woosnam who got the better of him in the Irish Open last June.

"It is time for me to show Ian what I can do," Olazábal said. "To Ireland I didn't have a nice day. The weather was lovely; the game wasn't."

The weather was also lovely

in Cornwall yesterday. Olazábal and Woosnam, who played together as they will today, further enlightened proceedings with the quality of golf. Both, however, were concerned that it took four hours 20 minutes to complete their rounds.

"We sat for 20 minutes on the 16th tee," Olazábal said. "The referees were not very close and I will be asking for a reason as to why it took so long. The speed for 14 holes was magnificent and then we took 50 minutes to play two holes."

Olazábal did not allow the change of pace to upset his game. He completed a flawless round which included three birdies, although he did not hole a putt longer than six feet.

Woosnam was a master on the greens. He required only 11 putts on the inward half when he collected three of his five birdies and single putted seven times between five and twelve feet.

Olazábal, Woosnam, twice a runner-up in this tournament, and McNulty would have faced additional opposition had Howard Clark lost his way by dropping four shots in the last three holes.

"I lost my rhythm," Clark

said. That was hardly surprising as play ground to a halt. The Tour is working hard to eliminate slow play; it is at flagship events such as this one that they should ensure that the pace remains constant.

Kenneth Trimble was out earlier in the day when play was faster. He holds eight course records in his native Australia and now shares one in England following a 65 which matched the score achieved on Saturday by Andrew Oldcorn.

Trimble, aged 28, from Sydney, was recommended to Ian Owen, Director of Special Events for Benson and Hedges, by Jack Newton, runner-up in the Open Championship of 1975.

Trimble is unlikely to emulate Newton but he gave evidence in compiling his 65 of the likelihood of his winning in Europe in the not too distant future. "I felt under pressure when I came here," Trimble said. "I didn't want to disappoint Jack or Len. I feel better now. I'm hoping for some more invitations as I failed to win my card at the European qualifying school last December."

Elsewhere Bernard Langer continued his climb up the leader board with a 68 for a score of 212. Even so he confessed that after dropping shots at the 13th and 18th it would probably take a course record for him to trouble the leaders today.

Severiano Ballesteros and Nick Faldo will start out at two and three over par respectively. It is rare for both to be part of the supporting cast at the same tournament.



So near yet so far: Woosnam is deflated as his chip to the 6th stays out of the hole

74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928,



Oldham  
bedeviled  
by seeds  
controversy

## TCCB in agreement with Gooch over unity

By Alan Lee

**GRAHAM GOOCH**, the England captain, has won important ground in his efforts to secure more time together for his team during home series.

The Test and County Cricket Board has agreed to a request from Gooch and Mickey Stewart, the team manager, to bring forward the meeting time before each Test match. England's party will now gather on Tuesday nights rather than the traditional Wednesday afternoon, and the announcement of each team will be advanced from Sundays to Fridays.

The new arrangements will allow England to stage a full practice session, starting mid-morning on Wednesday, followed by a more detailed team meeting that has previously been possible.

Gooch believes that the extra hours together are precious to his aims of creating more team unity during the cluttered domestic season. "It is not so much the time in the nets which is important, but simply being together and talking about the game."

More good news for England's players is that they will not, after all, be required to go on to New Zealand for an ambiguous limited-overs series after this winter's four-month tour of Australia.

The additional leg, proposed by New Zealand, appeared to have secured reluctant agreement from the English authorities. But yesterday the New Zealand tour manager, Ian Taylor, admitted that there had been a mutual re-think and the misguided idea was being abandoned.

"It was felt there was a danger of over-exposure, as the teams will be seeing rather a lot of each other in the next two years," Taylor said.

## Smiths set stage but heavens spoil

By Jack Bailey

**SOUTHAMPTON:** No result, Hampshire 2 pts, Gloucestershire 2

JUST as everything was set fair for a fascinating tussle, one of those "thunderous showers" became more than a distant possibility. The Smith brothers had indulged the crowd with a partnership of 145 from 25 overs, and Hampshire had just completed an innings of 224 for 6 when the heavens opened and pools of water on the outfield left little doubt that Gloucestershire's innings would never begin.

Disappointing as this was, it was rivaled in the minds of the 4,000 crowd by their first sight of Gooch in Hampshire's colours. The second ball of the innings, bowled by Wales, took Gloucester's Llywelyn Lloyd's arm, alight a comfortable catch from a flurritious wave at a ball pitched outside the off stump. The familiarity of the scene made the crowd's groan that much more poignant.

Gooch's turn will come. As it was, Robin Smith was soon into his stride. And when Terry left early there was Chris Smith to remind everyone what a prolific

# CRICKET

## New Zealanders announce their arrival with style

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

**ARUNDEL (Duchess XI won toss):** New Zealanders beat the Duchess of Norfolk XI by seven wickets

The time warp that is Arundel was never so compelling as yesterday. In sublime weather, a sunbathing crowd of 9,000 launched another cricket tour in the peculiarly English way. Nobody much cared who won, so long as the entertainment was good, and the New Zealanders ensured that by scoring 100 in the last 12 overs for a comfortable victory.

New Zealand may not have the charismatic appeal of some touring teams, but this past winter they have beaten both India and Australia. In 1986, let us try to forget, they also won in England. They still have Hadlee, of course, but they are rather more than a one man band these days.

Before play yesterday their party was introduced and, in amongst such familiar figures as the Crowe brothers, Bracewell, Smith and Saunders were some newer names who could become the faces of the future.

Danny Morrison is, in the words of Hadlee himself, "Our No. 1 strike bowler now". Three times, against India, he took five wickets in an innings. Jonathan Millmow and Shane Thompson, aged 22 and 21 respectively, will be competing for this tour to win the Test matches.

To that end, Hadlee will be allowed to nominate his own preparation. His only appearance yesterday, bringing on a

priest, and 19-year-old Adam Prone is, in the view of some sound judges, one of the most gifted natural wicketkeepers unearthing for years.

More relevant to the series at hand is the presence of Mark Greatbatch and Andrew Jones. Greatbatch made a century on his Test debut against England two years ago and saved a match against Australia in Perth last November with what his captain, John Wright, described as "the greatest Test innings I have seen from a New Zealander".

Along with Martin Crowe, who apparently has his back injury under control, and the enigmatic Ken Rutherford, this pair give New Zealand formidable substance to their batting — especially when you consider that Wright himself is in arguably the best form of his life at the age of 35.

The captain did not play yesterday and will be absent again today, nursing a neck injury sustained in a head-on collision with Jarrod Miander's hip as he dived to complete a run in Sharjah last week. It was an irritating setback during yet another diversionary one-day tournament, but Wright stressed yesterday that his sole priority on this tour is to win the Test matches.

Hadlee will be allowed to nominate his own preparation. His only appearance yesterday, bringing on a

glass of water for a team-mate, produced the biggest cheer of the game, but Wright says: "I will leave it up to him how much he plays."

If the New Zealanders had one regret yesterday it was that an Australian made a century against them. Tony Dohmen, of Sussex, made 131 and shared a second-wicket stand of 180 with Paul Parker.

Needling 278, against an attack of has-beens and not-quites, they paced it unwillingly. Franklin's solid 82 gave way to the fluent, match-winning stand of 96 in 10 overs between Crowe and Rutherford.

**NEW ZEALANDERS**

J J Cross b Hensold 43  
J Franklin c Laver 22  
M Gooch c Laver 20  
M Crowe not out 92  
K Rutherford not out 92  
Extras (b 1, lb 11) 12  
Total (5 wkt, 50 overs) 278  
V J Marks, J K Lever, A R Rutherford and J P Franklin did not bat.  
**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-81, 2-238, 3-322, 4-362, 5-377, 6-397, 7-407, 8-417, 9-427, 10-432; **BOWLING:** Player 10-42-21; Shredon 10-42-22; Bradstock 9-57-0; Rutherford 1-0-7.

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**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

W Larkins c Adams & Malcolm 13  
A Fordham c Kuiper & Malcom 10  
R H Morris c Adams & Malcolm 10  
D J Carter c Adams & Malcolm 10  
N A Felton run out 10  
D J Morris not out 10  
G Thomas c Adams & Malcolm 10  
W W Davis c Adams & Malcolm 10  
Total (8 wkt, 40 overs) 180  
M A Robinson did not bat.  
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W Larkins c Adams & Malcolm 13  
A Fordham c Kuiper & Malcom 10  
R H Morris c Adams & Malcolm 10  
D J Carter c Adams & Malcolm 10  
N A Felton run out 10  
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The British have a certain zeal for playing the fool, as Simon Barnes found out at Badminton

# The classless kingdom of the horse

**BADMINTON**, with more than a quarter of a million people watching, is incontestably one of the year's important sporting events. The speed-and-endurance day, built around the wonderfully spectacular neck-snapping discipline of cross-country riding, is one of the most instructive days in the calendar for observers of Great British life.

There is no such thing as a classless day in Britain — do I mean England? — but all classes come to Badminton. Professor Henry Higgins could transcribe enough accents to complete his life's work if he spent Saturday afternoon earwigging at the lake fences.

But perhaps he would have been too astonished by the world's behaviour to take accurate notes. The lake presented one of the most extraordinary sights I have ever seen in sport.

The fence itself was a tester, and naturally the crowds gathered in thousands. Once the sun established itself as a permanent and blinding presence for the day, the crowd went batty. They cast all inhibitions aside. Hundreds of them joined the horses and plunged into the lake. The muddy bottom was stirred up like porridge as children, men and women waded in, sat down — many of them fully clad — and let the coffee-coloured waters lap around their shoulders.

There they sat, waiting for the next horse, speculating on its chances of coming to grief. The temperature rose and rose, there were splashing fights, disgusting mud fights, and the air was filled with the scent of stirred up lake-bottom and wet dog.

It all looked like one of those visionary paintings of biblical scenes in modern dress by Stanley Spencer: the baptism of Christ at Cookham, perhaps. The number of Instamatics and video cameras did not necessarily add a contradictory note, the urge to duplicate one's own vision being an inescapable part of modern life.

But above all, the prospect made one aware of the boundless enthusiasm of the British for playing the fool. Perhaps it is the result of a introverted and rigidly structured society; every time any reasonable excuse is offered for going ape is accepted with nothing less than hunger. The sun, that alien globe that pays its sudden dramatic visits

to this country, is all that the Brits need to cast care and clouts aside. A baking Badminton offered England the chance to break the usual patterns and to act daft.

This taste for nonsensical behaviour is part of every social class. Anthony Powell writes of "the abounding physical vitality of aristocratic families, their absolute disregard for personal dignity in uninhibited delight in 'dressing-up', that passionate return to childhood..."

There are all kinds of ways of looking a fool. I have mastered several myself, fairly effortlessly. However, the one sure and certain way of absolutely guaranteeing that you will look a complete and perfect idiot in front of a great many keen-eyed and critically minded people is to ride horses in public.

Rule No. 1 for all horse-peopple is that any horse can make a fool of any rider at any time. Rule No. 2 is that they will choose the most embarrassing possible moment to do it. Was not Mark Todd, the finest horseman in the world, found splashing about up to his neck at the water garden fence? Was not Ian Stark, another great hero of the horse world, made to look silly at the lake by Glenburnie, one of the best horses ever to win Badminton?

Todd had two horses and no clear rounds — Todd who made Badminton look easy last year as he scored a clear on a chance ride. The glories of the game were embarrassed on Saturday, and overshadowed by the unfamiliar names. Nothing to do with horses is ever certain.

No one who takes a horse out before an audience has ever escaped looking a fool. Is that part of the attraction, I wonder? I shall not forget a stunningly embarrassing performance of wild, uninhibited rearing at a recent minor event: the Enfield Chase Cross-Country the previous weekend. I know — I was sitting on the horse at the time.

Horses free you from the common run of life; they free you from the need, or indeed, the possibility, of dignity. Horses always steal your dignity. In return they give you something else. But hush! I must leave it here with such dignity as remains to me, or I will be back in *Private Eye's* "Pseud's Corner"



Hard reign: Mastermind answers Carol Rose's order to negotiate the water during the trials

## TENNIS

### Graf tightens grip after shaky start

From Harry Wood, Hamburg

STEFFI Graf was subjected to a severe test by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the final of the Citizen Cup here before winning 3-7, 6-1, 6-1. The first set, at least, was in stark contrast to their match at Amelia Island last month, in which Graf surrendered just one game, playing what she later described as "technically perfect" tennis.

Those words did not describe yesterday's performance, which was often poor and at the best erratic. Sanchez Vicario, who inflicted Graf's last defeat upon her, at the French Open last year, was allowed plenty of free points, especially at the beginning of the match.

Graf started with an ace, but then lost her service, and did not hold a game point for 18 minutes. She looked lethargic and extremely tentative, while her opponent was eager and obviously full of confidence following her 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 semi-final victory over Martina Navratilova.

Although Graf did the right thing in moving Sanchez Vicario around, she curiously insisted on employing her sliced backhand, which kept the ball in play but was insufficient for winning points. And when she used her forehand, it was often inaccurate. It was not until the second set that Graf began to show any consistent evidence of her true

capabilities. But still the score is misleading, as four of the games went to deuce, and after breaking for 2-0 the reduced six game point to break again.

While Graf pulled herself together, Sanchez Vicario, who had played tenaciously and troubled Graf by presenting her with the unwelcome challenge of high top spin and some superb service return winners, gradually found herself overwhelmed.

Graf, her confidence rising as her unforced errors declined, was then able to run out an easy, but relieved, winner of her fourth title of the year.

**RESULTS:** Semi-finals: A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt M Navratilova (USA) 6-1, 6-2, 6-1; Graf (W) bt J Wiesner (Austria) 6-4, 6-2; Final: Graf bt Sanchez Vicario, 6-1, 6-0, 6-1.

**COUNTY CUP** (BMC Invitational meeting): A Watson (Terry), 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; Steves (Hull), 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; Stretton (Lancs), 6-3, 6-1; Gibson (Glos), 6-3, 6-1; Morgan (Luton), 6-3, 6-1.

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## New bid to block Maxwell purchase

**Sydney** The National Companies and Securities Commission, Australia's corporate watchdog, will again try to block the sale of a 14.9 per cent stake in Bell Group to Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher.

Mr Henry Bosch, the NCSC chairman, said yesterday that it would lodge a formal application with the Western Australian Federal Court on Wednesday.

Mr Bosch also said he believed the sale may have breached the law and, therefore, needed investigation.

The NCSC failed last week to stop Mr Maxwell buying 48.59 million shares from Mr David Aspinwall, Bell Group's managing director.

Only days before the Maxwell sale on April 29, Mr Aspinwall bought a 16.7 per cent stake in Bell from the Australian State Government Insurance Commission, for one cent a share.

The NCSC has said the Aspinwall purchase was in breach of the takeover rules because of his association with Bond Corp Holdings, Bell's 75 per cent owner, and therefore the sale to Mr Maxwell was invalid. (Reuters)

## Milestone in updating scheme

By Our City Staff

MISS Rosin Brookes, aged 23, a marketing executive of Dowty Maritime, has become the 1,000th participant in the Engineering Council's updating pilot scheme.

The scheme, set up to help engineers and technicians keep up to date and develop their careers, was launched in 1988.

Mr Derek Kingsbury, chairman and chief executive of the Fairey Group, and chairman of the scheme's steering committee, said he was delighted with the progress the pilot scheme was making.

"Our closer working within Europe means that investors are going to take a closer look at the technological profile of companies and that's where continuing education and training of employees will play a major part," he said.

## Court of Appeal

### Place of performance of an obligation

**Medway Packaging Ltd v Memer Maschinen GmbH & Co KG**

Before Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson [Judgment May 3]

For the purposes of article 5(1) of the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters 1968, "the place of performance of the obligation" referred to the place of performance of the obligation which formed the actual basis of the proceedings.

The Court of Appeal so held in a considered judgment in dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Meurer Maschinen GmbH & Co KG, from a decision of Mr Justice Hobhouse, who had refused to set aside the service by the plaintiff, Medway Packaging Ltd, of the writ on the defendants in West Germany.

Article 5 provides: "A person domiciled in a contracting state may, in another contracting state, be sued: (1) in matters relating to a contract, in the courts for the place of performance of the obligation in question . . ."

Mr Peter Brunner for the

## Race with Japan has fine-tuned car-maker's performance

# The challenge that is driving Vauxhall

JULIAN HERBERT

**T**here was something bald and matter-of-fact behind Vauxhall Motors' statement last week that it was to resume exporting cars to Europe after a gap of 11 years.

Spectacular pre-tax profits of £236.3 million last year, an increase of 55 per cent on 1988; a 15 per cent share of the domestic market for new cars; the Cavalier topping the best-sellers' table for the first three months of this year — the list of triumphs reeled off by the company's chairman and managing director Mr Paul Tosch poses more questions than it answers about the causes of such a recovery in a beleaguered industry.

Travel to the Bedfordshire motor town of Luton and the mysteries multiply. The bulk of the 1930s plant which dominates the local economy looks clapped-out and ready for the breakers' yard. At first glance we might be in the heart of the Smelly Britain of which the Duke of Edinburgh spoke so angrily to industrialists last Monday.

The town is still smarting from the Campani advertisement with an ugly-vowed Loraine Chase saying she is from "Loo in Airport", and even from the odium of the plastic pitch on which its Vauxhall-sponsored league side plays soccer. When a number of local businessmen recently formed a consciousness-raising group called the Luton Initiative, with the motto Luton's Looking Up, it begged the response that it was the only way left to look.

Mr Tosch sits in the heart of all this unloveliness and contemplates one of the most dramatic revivals in the modern history of the British motor industry.

For the first time in more than 20 years Vauxhall is to pay a dividend (of £14.6 million) to its parent company, General Motors. Last year it also paid £27 million in tax — the first payments after two decades of losses totalling £300 million.

Vauxhall is expected to ease the balance of payments deficit in the motor industry by reducing its reliance on imported components. When General Motors announced three weeks ago that it was to invest £160 million in a new plant at Ellesmere Port, it



In drive: Paul Tosch has presided over one of the most dramatic revivals in the beleaguered British motor industry's history

Cheshire, to produce V6 engines for the luxury end of the range, it could not have made a clearer statement of confidence in its UK subsidiary.

By the end of this year, production at Luton should have increased from 32 units per hour to 40.

This is where the true index of health is to be found, for it is nothing less than a pulse rate in the slowly moving bloodstream of manufacture.

It takes just over a minute for one Cavalier, polished and pristine, to follow another from the end of its birth cycle.

From the way Mr Tosch talks, you might conclude that

his three-and-a-half years in the job and the upturn in Vauxhall's fortunes are linked by nothing more than happy coincidence. The fact is that the company's success stems from an awareness of the Japanese challenge to the European market in the course of the next decade.

He and his senior colleagues are now talking, albeit cryptically, about a new approach to corporate communications.

They refer to it as "quality network," but no one is yet saying precisely what this consists of; its outlines remain as vague as some exotic model still under wraps. "It has to do with developing a cultural change," Mr Tosch says, "and

drives a Carlton GSi 3000, a this mean that Vauxhall is going to introduce Japanese-style company management? "You need to look at who's doing well, and why," he replies, "but our style and our strategy are not copied from anyone."

At the heart of the Vauxhall phenomenon is an alliance of British skills and American know-how pitted against Nissan, Toyota and Honda.

"The Japanese have the capacity to increase their share of

the European market from 10 or 11 per cent to 25 per cent," he says. "Look at the United States, where their share is up to 26 per cent. In other countries they have achieved as much as 40 per cent." Does

he mean that Vauxhall is

going to introduce Japanese-style company management?

"You need to look at who's

doing well, and why," he

replies, "but our style and our

strategy are not copied from

anyone."

There are other, more tangible reasons for Vauxhall's resurgence. The success of the 1988 Cavalier in terms of

quality as well as sales is cited

as a turning point. According

to production staff, the reception

of that model played a

vital part in restoring staff

morale. In the same year the

company implemented a so-

phisticated new programme of

Material Process Control; this

co-ordinated the flow of parts to the plant in such a way as to cut out the accumulation of large stocks and so release valuable floor space for production.

The last four years have also seen a tightening of standards. Every day a random sample of 10 cars completed the previous day is subjected to a rigorous "audit", after which their minute defects, many of which would not be discernible to the layman's eye, are publicly logged on special boards.

Although attempts are made to trace the errors back to their point of origin, it is the car, rather than the individual, which is in disgrace.

Because of the *amus mirabilis* of 1988 the profit-sharing scheme, which has been technically in place since the 1930s, at last has a more than hypothetical value. With a share-out of nearly £700 to each of Vauxhall's 11,000 employees as a result of last year's figures, the incentives have become substantial. In addition there is a flat-rate productivity payment of nearly £35 a week, calculated on the company's overall output. At present levels, staff stand to make an extra £2,500 a year through the two schemes.

Mr Simon Monk, a foreman in the trim shop, where the fittings are installed into the car bodies, says the prospect of this extra money may have been a significant factor, but it is not of primary importance.

"I believe that pride in the product has been the main thing and that the presence of the Japanese has spurred us on," he says.

"They, rather than Ford, have now become the principal target. Another factor, in which we are not unique at Luton, has been the improvement of industrial relations. The workforce may be far smaller than it was 10 years ago, but that has been achieved by natural wastage and not through redundancies.

"Nationalism is probably not the right word to use for what has gone on here. Maybe the best way of expressing it is to say that the British are never more deadly than when coming under attack."

Alan Franks

## Law Report May 7 1990

## Queen's Bench Divisional Court

### Rate support grant figures final even if incorrect

**Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Merton London Borough Council**

Before Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Brooke [Judgment May 2]

Figures submitted by a local authority to the Secretary of State for the Environment under the Rates Support Grants Act 1988 were final, whether those figures were correct or incorrect.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in giving

reasons for its dismissal of

an application for judicial review brought by the London Borough of Merton against the decision of the secretary of state made on December 13, 1988 that the applicant's block grant entitlement for 1985/6 be calculated on the basis of its estimate of total expenditure dated July 31, 1987.

On the other hand, the grant of an exclusive right of distribution in England carried with it an obligation on the part of the grantor so to act in England and Germany as to respect fully the rights of the grantee under the distribution agreement.

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# Retailers fall short in transatlantic leap

Gillian Bowditch explains how British companies trying to find their feet in the US have often found the experience hazardous

THE perception of Britain as a nation of shopkeepers and the US as one of consumers suggests that British retailers making the transatlantic leap are assured of instant riches. But few British retailers have had happy or profitable experience courting the American consumer.

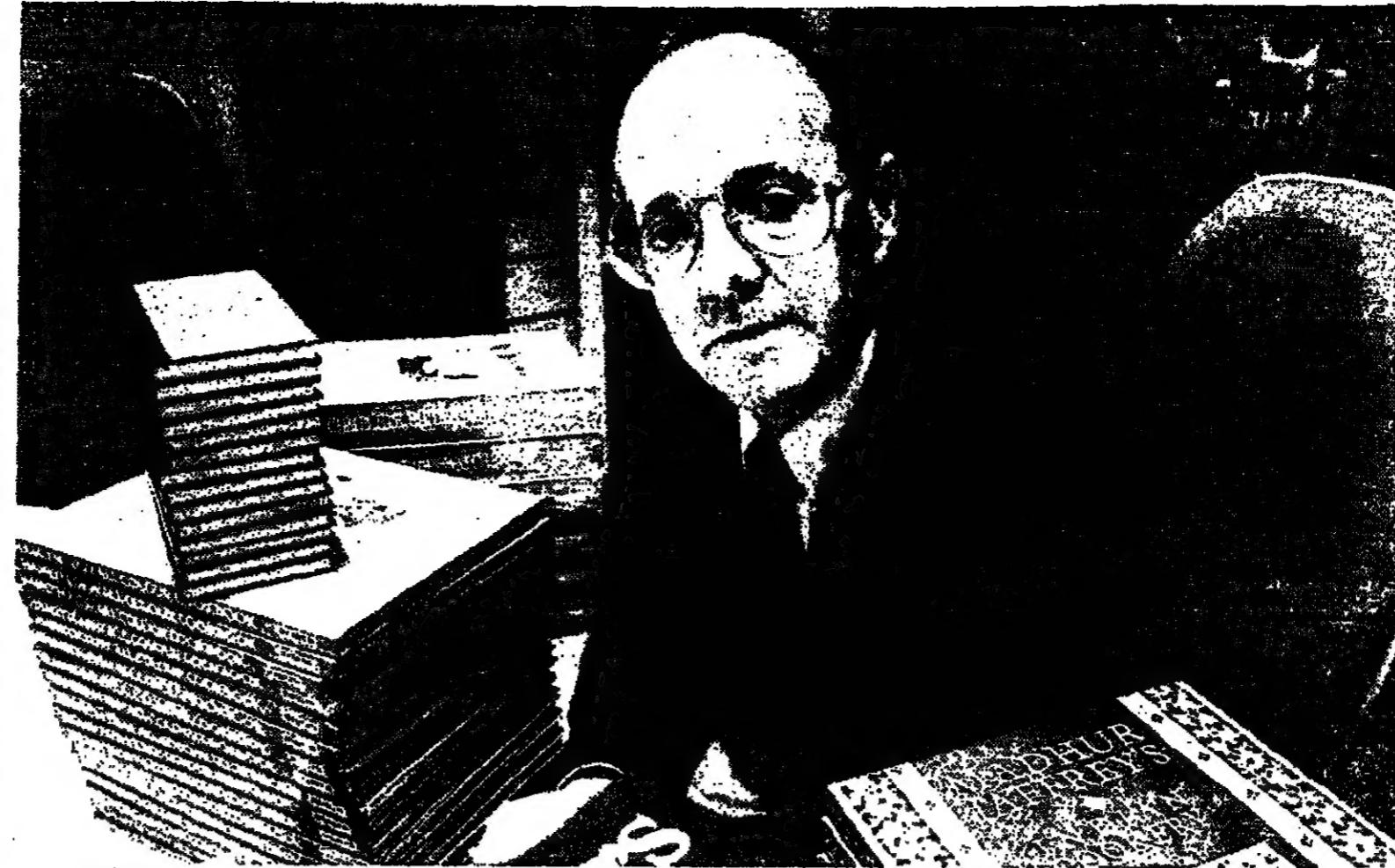
Given the uniformity of the experience, the problems faced by British retailers in the US are surprisingly diverse. The reasons for making the move are relatively simple. America is the largest single market in the world, and British retailers who have either saturated the British market or believe they have a unique concept or product are often seduced by the sheer potential of the US.

The similarities between the two countries are, on the face of it, more obvious than the differences. The common language, the fact that Americans take Christmas even more seriously than we do, and similar cultures suggest British retailers are guaranteed a relatively easy ride. But for us to love their films and them to love our Royal family is not enough.

The main problem many UK retailers experience is often the factor that drew them to the US in the first place. The size of the market means that enormous resources are needed in order to make a proper impact. British retailers frequently underestimate the funds need to establish a presence.

The second problem is location. British retailers who have tried to build up a chain of US shops from scratch, such as Tie Rack, Sock Shop, Pentos's Athena or John Menzies' Early Learning Centres have almost all faced the problem of the US malls.

Mr Randolph Noel-Paton,



Different tastes: Terry Maher, Pentos chairman and chief executive, says 20 per cent of Athena's British products are not acceptable in the US

Angeles and San Francisco, is extremely conservative. He said: "About 20 to 30 per cent of Athena's product in the UK would not be acceptable in the US. Tastes are different. Even in a big city like Chicago, our more racy posters and cards would not sell." Mr Maher said that while the nine Athena shops were not profitable, Athena has an extremely profitable wholesale business supplying US retailers. "Having the shops helped us to focus our product offer to US retailers," he says.

Mr Noel-Paton said ELC's product offer in the US is also different from its British offer. "Spelling is different, so all the books have to be reprinted and children in the US have different heroes," he said.

Even in the prime sites in the best malls, retailers need to get the merchandise right. Mr Maher pointed out that the US, outside New York, Los

"Postman Pat" is a total stranger in the US."

Fashion

retailers find that their UK product does not always transfer across the water. Climate and tastes are different.

The size of the operation is also extremely important. The bigger the chain, the more muscle a retailer has with the landlords and the quicker it can build up brand loyalty. A retailer with 1,000 shops can afford to have 10 per cent underperforming; one with 100 cannot.

Yet another problem is competition. US retailers are prepared to be aggressive on pricing and copy-cat shops are a reasonably common phenomenon as Sock Shop discovered. Two or three different

sock retailers opened up on the back of Sock Shop.

Mr Bill Gilmour, a retail consultant with Price Waterhouse, believes UK retailers make the fundamental mistake of lifting and transporting a successful concept in the UK to the US or Europe. "Often they don't look at what works and then apply their skills. They are too often produced rather than market-led," he said.

One example of a retailer whom Mr Gilmour believes has been market-led in the US is Ratner's, the jewellery chain. "If Ratner had exported its concept of selling cheap jewellery to the US, it would not have worked. Instead he [Gerald Ratner] looked at the US

market, found a chain which was working well, had excellent management and a desire to expand, and bought it. Then he applied his buying skills and, as a result, has been very successful."

The depth of management and the amount of management time needed to move successfully into the US is another inhibiting factor. Even British groups perceived to have strong management have not always succeeded in the US.

Many UK retailers are now choosing partners for their expansion in Europe, partly because European takeovers can be difficult to do but partly because of the experiences of themselves and others in the US. The sorry plight of many UK retailers in America has taught them that braving markets overseas, no matter how attractive they look from a British perspective, can be a hazardous business.

## Hopes of ending GATT deadlock

From Peter Gulliford  
Brussels

THE European Community's most senior farm official has said that with sufficient political will, the EC and the United States could break their acrimonious deadlock over farm subsidies.

It is the latest sign that both sides are intensifying their efforts to compromise and end the months of bitter rhetoric which have been largely responsible for bringing the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations to the brink of collapse.

The GATT round, due to finish in December, is currently grounded over transatlantic disagreements on just how and how far to cut back the subsidies paid to farmers.

Mr Ray MacSharry, EC Farm Commissioner, declared that "the time for ideological confrontations and political stances is past." Ritual accusations of foot-dragging in the GATT talks should end, he added.

Mr MacSharry's comments closely followed a warning given by his compatriot, Mr Gerry Collins, the Irish finance minister and president of the EC Council.

Mr Collins said during a news conference held jointly with Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, that "time was not on our side" in the GATT talks.

Reflecting this urgency, it was agreed during top-level talks in Washington last week that negotiators should meet fortnightly to thrash out an acceptable framework for farm reform.

Further signs of optimism have come from the US government, whose farm secretary, Mr Clayton Yeutter, said that the US was "picking up positive vibes from Western Europe" on its plans to reduce farm support by converting non-tariff barriers into tariffs.

Mr MacSharry warmed to the idea yesterday, while insisting that all measures which distort farm trade, ranging from protectionist measures against imports to straight subsidies to farmers, should be included in the equation.

Europe and the US are also edging towards agreement on common standards for plant and animal health, frequently used as a form of disguise for trade protection.

The world's two largest trading blocs are still at loggerheads over export subsidies, which enable the Community to compete on low-price world markets despite the much higher cost of farm produce at home.

Mr MacSharry defended the Community's right to maintain its dual pricing system, calling instead for "more imaginative solutions" than the total abolition of export rules.

The success of the Uruguay Round, he said, will depend not on whether but on how subsidies are progressively cut worldwide.

Even here he was optimistic. "As long as we are genuinely discussing reduction of support and not elimination of support, there is scope for compromise," he said.

His prime concern during the next seven months will be to avoid selling the Community's farmers - who outnumber those in the US by more than five to one - down the river by agreeing measures which cut farm support too far or too fast.

## Green tips for share buyers

By Jon Ashworth

A NEW list of "best buys" in green investment has been published by a City private client broker - on recycled paper. Babcock International and the North American Gas Investment Trust are just two shares which should benefit from the Green movement, says Henderson Crosthwaite.

The growing demand for services which help the environment should, in turn, help boost the shares. Other tips include Haima, concerned with tackling pollution, and Alwaste, a US company which treats industrial waste.

But the firm gave warning that investors may have to wait before their shares take off. Mr Eric Hathorn, the director, said the "green" market may remain in limbo for two or three years.

He gave warning that many so-called environmental funds were often nothing of the kind. They either confused environmental and ethical considerations or recommended shares with little link to Green issues.

A report to be published by Environmental Data Services in a few weeks was likely to take such funds to task, Mr Hathorn added. The Jupiter Tarbutt Merlin ecology fund and the International Green Investment Trust were likely to be the most responsible choices.

## Suppliers 'at risk' in run-up to 1992

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor



Banham: worried of 10 would like it introduced as soon as possible, but half thought such a currency within five years was a realistic target.

Most of the 450 companies in the survey were unenthusiastic about the EC's ideas for worker participation by regulation. Only one in 10 saw any value in that approach; but eight out of 10 were keen on employee involvement.

Mr Banham said: "Companies believe practicality and flexibility are the hallmarks of the UK's response to the challenges of the single market and they should not be put at risk by dogma from Brussels. The CBI has always believed that participation is best achieved by involving employees in the operations of companies on a voluntary basis."

## Exxon oil spill case delayed

Juneau, Alaska

THE CRIMINAL trial of Exxon Corp and its unit, Exxon Shipping, on charges stemming from the Exxon Valdez oil spill has been delayed indefinitely by a federal judge, Exxon said.

US District Court Judge Russel Holland granted motions requested by Exxon lawyers to delay the trial, Mr Scott Johnson, an Exxon spokesman said.

The judge agreed with Exxon's lawyers that the case was too complicated to go to trial so soon, Mr Johnson said.

"I think the judge made it clear that there are a lot of complex issues and it wasn't ready to go to trial," he said.

The trial was due to begin on June 18 in Anchorage.

Mr Johnson is unsure when the trial will be held.

The 11 million gallon Exxon Valdez oil spill fouled more than 1,200 miles of Alaska coastline in March last year, and prompted a \$2 billion clean-up.

The charges brought against the company and its transportation arm include violating the Ports and Waterways Safety Act, the Dangerous Cargo Act, the Clean Water Act, the Refuge Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If convicted on all counts, Exxon will face fines of up to \$700 million. (Reuters)

Judge Miner said: "Although Chestman was aware that Loeb was a member of the Waldbaum family and may well have gathered that the defendant and accurate information furnished by Loeb was not generally available, there is no evidence he knew Loeb was breaching a confidential relationship by impair-

ing the information to him."

The decision throws into doubt SEC rule 14e-3 which makes it a crime to trade on misappropriated information involving a takeover offer even if the defendant is not violating a fiduciary duty by making a trade.

The rule was extensively used by the SEC in its Wall Street crackdown and the ruling is a considerable blow to its powers.

Mr Chestman began serving a two-year prison term last June, after earlier courts found he behaved illegally by acting on a tip from a client, Mr Keith Loeb, that the Waldbaum grocery chain was about to be taken over by the S & P retail chain.

Mr Loeb was married to the daughter of Mrs Shirley Witkin, a large shareholder in Waldbaum and the sister of Mrs Im Waldbaum, who was president of the company.

The issue was whether Mr Chestman, as a fourth-hand tippee, breached the insider trading laws.

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Mr Thomas Newkirk, the chief litigation counsel for the SEC, said yesterday: "We're very disappointed and are evaluating the decision."

"I think it's going to require us to evaluate all the insider trading investigations that involve similar relationships to see whether they are cases that are worth pursuing."

The decision undermines the fragile nature of insider trading investigations, but the SEC has been successful in its campaign primarily because it has managed to talk potential defendants into admitting guilt before cases go to a full court trial.

This was the case with the former Drexel Burnham Lambert takeover adviser Mr Dennis Levine whose guilty plea in 1986 set off the chain which saw Mr Ivan Boesky plead guilty soon after. Before these convictions the theory on Wall Street was that it was very difficult to prove an insider trading charge because the government had to prove that a trader used the information to make a profit.

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Executive Editor  
 David Brewerton  
 CHANGE ON WEEK

## THE POUND

US dollar  
 1.6610 (+0.0245)

W German mark  
 2.7774 (+0.0347)

Exchange index  
 87.6 (+0.9)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
 1696.8 (+38.1)

FT-SE 100  
 2162.2 (+55.6)

USM (Datastream)  
 130.16 (-2.23)

**B&C considers appointing 'company doctors'**

Davies: name considered

By Angela Mackay

**EXECUTIVES** at British & Commonwealth, the beleaguered financial services group, have been holding emergency talks with so-called company doctors whose appointment may help to restore dwindling City confidence in the company's future.

Sources at one of B&C's leading subsidiaries said that among the names considered was that of Mr David Davies, the chairman of Johnson Matthey and formerly chairman of Hill Samuel, the merchant bank.

The appointment of the specialist fraud unit at Stephenson Harwood, the legal firm to examine what may be large-scale fraud at Atlantic Computers, B&C's computer leasing arm, emphasizes the similarities between the plight of B&C and that of Ferranti, the defrauded electronics and defence company.

Ferranti sold £400 million of assets and appointed Mr Eugene Anderson as chairman and chief executive to lead the smaller, chastened group forward.

B&C, however, run by chief executive Mr John Gunn, and where Sir Peter Thompson recently moved in as chairman, may not have the same luxury of time to search for a saviour.

Tomorrow, holders of B&C's 7% per cent convertible unsecured loan stock, nominally worth £320 million, are meeting to discuss immediate repayment. On Friday, B&C issued a statement in an attempt to buy more time.

The company assured the stock market that it was well advanced in formulating proposals designed to extricate the group from its difficulties.

The Bank of England, which oversees

B&C's money broking and banking activities, has been very supportive so far but has no jurisdiction over the disaffected bond holders. If they seek immediate repayment at their meeting tomorrow, there seems little chance of B&C avoiding being pushed into receivership itself.

Like Ferranti, which paid top dollar for ISC, a US defence group, B&C paid a high price when it spent more than £400 million buying Atlantic three years ago. That deal and the information used in calculating the price, will be central to the Stephenson Harwood investigation.

Last month, the company said it had to write off its entire investment in Atlantic, which had risen to £550 million, in addition to raising £750 million from asset disposals.

While much has been said about waste and extravagance at Atlantic Computers, the

appointment of Stephenson Harwood is a sign of growing concern by B&C and Price Waterhouse, Atlantic's administrators.

B&C and Price Waterhouse have already sacked the majority of Atlantic's British staff. Mr David McCormick, Atlantic's chief executive, resigned two weeks ago. He had been suspended from his duties at the end of March.

Mr McCormick said he had warned B&C's board about Atlantic's financial problems at least a year ago.

As came into Atlantic Computers via a takeover of his company, ICA of the Netherlands, in 1986. Before that, Mr McCormick was involved with another computer leasing company, ICC, which went into receivership in 1981.

ICA was an associated company of ICC.

**Deal over Ordnance defended by BAE**

By Martin Waller

BRITISH Aerospace has defended the near-monopoly it negotiated with the Ministry of Defence for Royal Ordnance after it bought the munitions maker from the Government in April 1987.

But it has refused to give details of the benefits the deal brought to the company or how much work has been won from the Ministry by Ordnance under BAE's ownership.

BAE, which drew fire for the £38 million in "sweeteners" it obtained from the Government in connection with its purchase of Rover, confirmed it received guarantees from the Ministry that Ordnance could rely on 80 per cent of its orders for munitions.

This deal was to be worth £400 million to Ordnance over five years. In return the Government required an annual reduction in the price the company charged for its products. Such price reductions, thought to about 5 per cent a year, were defended as "very good value" by the defence minister responsible for procurement, Mr Timothy Sainsbury, in July 1988.

In fact they were the result of tough bargaining between BAE and the Ministry, which had been looking for something like a 60-40 split in Ordnance's favour.

BAE claims the 80-20 deal had the effect of introducing competition into the munitions industry after Ordnance's monopoly position while in government ownership. "There wasn't a UK supplier who could supply the same amount of munitions for the Government," it said.

But Ordnance's commanding market position even after it had been sold would have made it difficult for other companies to enter that market. BAE will not say how much work Ordnance has gained from the Ministry under its ownership, but reports have suggested more than £250 million.

**Inflation fuels G7 fears for interest rates**

From Rodney Lord, Economics Editor, Washington

FINANCE ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven leading industrial countries meeting yesterday in Washington agreed that inflationary pressures in the world economy were still substantial.

Concern centres mainly on the US, where recent indicators suggest that the economy is still buoyant, and on Germany where economic and monetary union between the two halves may give a surge to demand.

Higher interest rates do not appear to be regarded as imminent but they may prove necessary later in the year.

Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, President of the Bundesbank, said he believed fears that German monetary union would lead to higher interest rates were overdone, but he stressed that high interest rates were necessary.

He told journalists ahead of the private meeting of the G7 ministers and officials: "I believe that this worry that the union of the two German states... has to lead to higher interest rates is somewhat exaggerated."

But the current high level of interest rates worldwide was in line with current economic fundamentals including inflation and economic growth.

Herr Pöhl said that credit costs had already been rising, partly as a reaction to rising global inflationary fears. Economic growth was strong in Europe and West Germany and high real interest rates were appropriate. "I do not see what is negative about

this," Herr Pöhl said. The currently high interest rates were a way of keeping inflation in check.

The G7 reviewed developments in foreign exchange markets since their last meeting a month ago in Paris with some satisfaction. Following the April communiqué, in which they threatened to resist an "undesirable" decline in the yen, the Japanese currency has stabilized.

The other main item on G7's agenda was the package of compromises needed to finalize an increase in the financial resources of the International Monetary Fund.

Speaking over the weekend

M Michel Camdessus, the Fund managing director, indicated he thought the size of the increase in quotas (subscriptions) would be in the range 50 to 70 per cent. The increase would be linked with a number of reforms to the treatment of arrears in the Fund, for which the US in particular has been pressing.

Changes on arrears would include an intermediate stage between full membership and expulsion and possible sales of gold to help restore the financial credibility of borrowers in arrears. M Camdessus vigorously denied that he was "soft" on arrears. "Nothing is worse for the international community than arrears."

The compromise proposed on the timing of the next quota increase is that both the ninth quota increase (which is now being finalized) and the 10th—in theory due in 1993—should be amalgamated. The 11th increase would then be due in 1995. M Camdessus

said he was "reasonably certain" that the question of ranking would be resolved. Britain has so far declined to give up any more of its quota increase in order to meet French objections to being pushed down from fourth to fifth as a result of the proposed rise of Japan from fifth to second.

Britain is currently second in the Fund with a quota of 6.9 per cent. Under its proposal, that would fall to 6 per cent leaving it in fourth place. It is conceivable that discussions over the siting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development may come into the bargaining. The main contenders to play host to the bank are London and Paris.

The IMF may be forced to borrow money if a planned increase in quotas falls short of expectations or takes too long to be ratified, M Camdessus said. But he emphasized that plans to sell up to three million ounces of IMF gold as part of the new plan on arrears would only be used as "a last line of defence."

M Pierre Berégovoy, the French finance minister, is to propose a new initiative on Third World debt at today's meeting of the IMF Interim Committee. This would extend the Brady plan, which provides some official support to help restructure commercial bank debt, to a number of countries.

This proposal is unlikely to meet with much enthusiasm from Britain and a number of other countries which believe that the existing Brady plan should be given more time to prove itself.

**Lakeside boost for retail sector**

MARK PEPPER

By Matthew Bond

CAPITAL & Counties will open its £350 million shopping centre at West Thurrock, Essex, in October with more than 80 per cent of its retail space let.

The news that the company has let more than 1 million sq ft of space at its Lakeside shopping centre will come as a boost to a retail sector devastated by the sales slump. Recently, there have been stories of shopping centres opening with less than 25 per cent of space let.

Mr John Abel, director, said the Lakeside lettings showed retailers had not boycotted the market, but were being more selective. "There is still some good news around. If it is a quality centre, there is still demand. We hope to be close to fully let when we open."

Lakeside is one of the new generation of "regional shopping centres"—massive mall developments that bring high street shopping to out-of-town locations. Lakeside will have parking for 9,000 cars.

To date only a handful have been built, with the most famous being Gateshead's Metro Centre and North London's Brent Cross.

Four anchor tenants at Lakeside—Marks and Spencer, Debenhams, John Lewis and House of Fraser—were announced last year. The latest round of letting brings in 140 different retailers.

Burton Group will be taking a number of units. Sir Ralph Halpern, the chairman, said: "The Burton Group will have a major presence at Lakeside. With over 1 million square feet, extensive parking facilities and the presence of a mass of the best names in retailing, Lakeside will be the premier shopping centre in the South-east."

Other retailers committed to the centre include Argos Boots, C&A, Next and WH Smith. Rents are about half those of either Oxford Street or Brent Cross.

The centre boasts a two-level mall, whose length is equivalent to the distance along Oxford Street from Tottenham Court Road to Oxford Circus.



Heading for heights: John Abel, Capital &amp; Counties director, at the Lakeside site

**Court victory for California insurers**

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

THE three-year campaign in California to gain cheaper car insurance for the state's 17 million motorists has been dealt a potential death blow by the Los Angeles courts.

In a ruling due to be confirmed this week, Judge Miriam Vogel decided in Los Angeles that insurance companies can continue their old ways of setting premiums by postcode, age and marital status. It was this method which prompted accusations of profiteering against the insurers and sparked the campaign for cheaper rates.

Judge Vogel's ruling cuts across Proposition 103, a state law passed in November 1988 calling for lower car insurance rates and change in the way

they are calculated. Mr Harvey Rosenfield, author of Proposition 103, described the ruling as "a travesty of justice."

Proposition 103 was designed to take insurance rates back to the levels of November 1987 and then cut them by 20 per cent; and to stop insurance companies basing premiums on addresses, age, sex or marital status. It also limited rate increases to the previous year's inflation rate.

It would have given priority to driving record, annual mileage and years of experience. Rate cuts in inner cities could have totalled more than 20 per cent, but the loss to insurers would have been more than \$800 million.

Between them, the five claim to have worked on over

**Team leaves Salomon for own investment boutique**

By Michael Tate, Deputy City Editor

MR DON Johnston, who has established Salomon Brothers as the leading investment bank in Spain over the past five years, has taken four colleagues and set up his own investment boutique specializing in southern Europe.

Johnston Associates starts life with \$10 million of equity, of which 60 per cent will be held by the five-man team, and will have access to a further \$25 million. Their outside backer is understood to be a European financial institution, and they number among their friends and former clients Mr Fouad Jaffar, former head of the Kuwait Investment Office.

Mr Johnston has run Salomon's corporate finance and merger and acquisition activity since he set it up in 1984, and has made his reputation in establishing the bank as one of the leading mergers and acquisitions houses in Spain.

His team consists of Mr Sekhar Bahadur, whose clients since moving from New York to London in 1987, have included Iscosel, Banco de Bilbao, Grupo Torras, Arvin Industries and Jefferson Smurfit Group.

Mr Antonio Rodriguez-Pina and Mr John Gibbons, all from Salomon's London office, and Mr Antonio Bonchristiano from the bank's New York headquarters.

available at the bank, and providing a much more expensive service than that offered at a different bank.

Bank errors rarely work for the benefit of the client. Mr Blackstone says: "The computer seems to be programmed so that any error is in the bank's favour. For example, if an interest rate is agreed for an overdraft the computer will charge a fail-safe rate until details are fed in. Sometimes the details are never inputted."

Blackstone Franks also complains of penal charges imposed on overdrafts beyond an agreed facility. Interest rates of 8-10 per cent are not uncommon and charges can even work out at 30 per cent, the accountants say.

**Day of reckoning for bungling banks**

By Rodney Hobson

BANK error in your favour occurs only in the world of Monopoly, two accountants discovered. So they have set up Bank Busters, a company that goes through its clients' bank accounts to get charges cut and interest on deposits raised.

Mr Frank and Mr Lance Blackstone got the idea when auditing the accounts of a nursing home. It looked as if the client had been overcharged about £20,000 for an overdraft. In fact, the bank owned up to overcharging in previous years and refunded £60,000.

Mr Frank and Mr Blackstone reckoned on that basis that their London-based accounting firm of Blackstone Franks could offer a service analysing bank accounts.

Bank Busters charges clients half of any savings made in the first year. After that the client keeps the lot. If no savings are found, Bank Busters will charge only administrative costs.

The service is available to companies with bank account turnover of at least £2 million and to solicitors and financial advisers. Former bankers themselves, they have taken on two former bank managers to carry on the investigations.

Examples found during routine accountancy work have led them to believe that they are on to a sure winner. Mr Blackstone says: "What struck us about the nursing home was that this was not a particularly big client. What had happened was that the bank had agreed to one in-

terest on client accounts. The solicitor was losing £12,000 a year.

Another client at the accountancy firm was saved £50,000 a year after negotiations with his bank. In another case Blackstone Franks found 121 errors amounting to £6,000 in the bank's favour.

Errors are spread right across the banking fraternity. Surprisingly, Mr Blackstone says most bank managers do not resent having their errors pointed out. He says: "The general reaction is one of extreme embarrassment. One manager paid for the cost of our services because he was so embarrassed."

In another case the bank had not bothered to tell a solicitor that it had special arrangements for paying in

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